FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 OCTOBER 1984

Iraq

Protest Over Israeli 'Piracy' — Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has protested to the United Nations over the interception of an Iraqi ship by the Israeli Navy in Jordanian territorial waters, INA reported. 'Aziz's message to the UN secretary general accused Israel of "piracy," claiming that an Israeli naval patrol intercepted an Iraqi ship heading toward the Jordanian port of Aqaba on 14 October and opened fire on the Iraqi vessel after the latter's captain rejected the Israelis' demand that he specify his cargo. However, Israeli military sources cited by Jerusalem radio denied that any such incident took place.

Relations With Jordan, USSR — Jordanian King Husayn arrived in Baghdad on the evening of 16 October for official talks with President Saddam Husayn, INA reported. The discussion covered bilateral relations, the Arab situation, threats to the Arab nation, and the continuing Iranian "aggression" against Iraq, the agency added. Following the talks, King Husayn left Baghdad at noon on 17 October. Meanwhile, INA and Moscow radio both announced that Foreign Minister 'Aziz will pay a working visit to the Soviet Union later in October

Syrian-Soviet Talks

The Syrian-Soviet talks in the Kremlin were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, friendship, and cordiality, and both sides expressed the desire to further strengthen mutual cooperation in accordance with their long-term interests, Moscow radio reported. President Konstantin Chernenko stressed that the Soviet Union will continue to render multifaceted aid to Syria and to other Arab peoples, the radio added, while President Hafiz al-Asad voiced gratitude for the Soviet Union's "effective" economic and military assistance to Syria. Both leaders condemned the United States and Israel for blocking the path to peace in the Middle East and for attempting to push the Arabs into "separate deals." The chief of the Soviet general staff and the Syrian defense minister were among those attending the talks, according to the radio.

In a related report, SANA said the Soviet leaders expressed support for Syria's "nationalist policy and its firm line in confronting U.S. and imperialist designs." The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and the views of both sides were "consistent" on all topics discussed, the Syrian agency added.

Meanwhile, a Damascus radio commentary claimed that "imperialist-Zionist" circles are following Al-Asad's visit to Moscow "with extreme concern" because it is a response to the "U.S. moves and provocation." The radio reaffirmed Syria's view that Jordan and Egypt are supporting U.S. policy in the Middle East and warned that Syria will be the target of a "premeditated aggression" planned by Israeli and U.S. circles.

Lebanon

Parliament — Husayn al-Husayni, the newly elected speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, emphasized the Syrian role in rebuilding Lebanon during his inaugural parliamentary address, which was broadcast by Beirut radio.

Security — The clandestine Druze and Christian radios, Voice of the Mountain and Radio Free Lebanon, both reported renewed fighting in the Al-Shuf mountains.

Israeli-U.S. Economic Relations

Visiting U.S. Secretary of Defense caspar Weinberger approved Israeli defense establishment requests for U.S. purchases in Israel totalling at least $200 million per annum, Jerusalem radio reported. As for the repayment of U.S. loans, Israeli officials cited by the radio speculated that the United States may eliminate the debt by writing it off against equivalent amounts of economic aid.

Iran

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati "rushed back" to Tehran after a week of meetings at the UN in New York because his post is in danger, according to "reliable sources" in Tehran cited by London's *KEYHAN*. Velayati has expressed unhappiness over interference in foreign policy by other Iranian officials, particularly Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the paper asserted.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi asked the Majlis for a vote of confidence on the appointments of Colonel Farrokh 'Azimi-E'temadi as defense minister and Kazem Akrami as minister of education and training, Tehran radio announced.

Gulf Affairs

Oil Prices — The UAE oil minister has urged the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company to reduce its prices by 40 cents a barrel, the Manama *GULF DAILY NEWS* disclosed.

GCC Military Cooperation — Commenting on the Peninsula Shield IImaneuvers by GCC military forces, Riyadh radio said "observers" believe that these maneuvers mark a "qualitative change" in the cohesion and training of GCC armed forces, preparing them for "the integration stage which the officials are planning."

Saudi General's Disappearance — The Brazilian justice minister said that General Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Khalifah, member of the Saudi delegation to Brazil who disappeared from his hotel in Rio on 11 October, took a flight to London that day after a quarrel with other members of his delegation, AFP reported.

North African Affairs

Western Sahara — The Zag sector in northwest Western Sahara has been "in flames" since the Polisario unleashed its "Great Maghreb" offensive on 13 October, according to Algiers radio. One part of Morocco's defensive wall has fallen, it added, and Saharan troops have attacked six positions on the Moroccan troops' western flank. A preliminary count lists 295 Moroccan dead or injured, the radio noted.

Arab-African Union Post — Libya's Kamal Hasan al-Maqhur, acting president of OPEC, has been named deputy secretary general of the Arab-African Union linking Libya and Morocco, Paris diplomatic sources revealed according to AFP. Al-Maqhur resigned his post as Libya's petroleum secretary on 12 September, the agency added, citing a *MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY* report.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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JORDAN TIMES on 'Arafat Gulf Tour, PNC Venue

JN170958 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 84 pp 1, 5

[Lamis K. Andoni dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Tuesday left Tunisia on a tour that will take him to a number of Arab Gulf states to consult with their leaders on the latest developments on the Arab and Palestinian arenas. The *JORDAN TIMES* has learnt that during his tour, which will include Kuwait, Dubai, Baghdad, Saudi Arabia and North Yemen, the PLO leader will explore possibilities of holding the PNC, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, in one of the Gulf states in case Algeria refused to host the 17th session of the PNC.

Mr 'Arafat's tour comes in the aftermath of an announcement by more than 80 Palestinian personalities, who concluded meetings with the PLO leadership Sunday in Tunis, that the PNC should meet by the end of November. The PLO leadership here seems confident that it can convene the PNC with the required quorum by the end of November with the participation of major Palestinian factions, despite Syrian objections. The leadership has drawn its confidence from the positive response to Mr 'Arafat's call on independent Palestinian personalities to gather in Tunis last Saturday for consultations and a series of intensive contacts that the Central Committee of Fatah, the mainstream faction and Mr 'Arafat's powerbase within the PLO. [sentence as published]

According to reliable Palestinian sources, most Palestinian factions except the Syrian-backed "National Alliance" and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) of George Habash are expected to attend the planned PNC session. The sources said that the PFLP remains reluctant to participate in the planned session if a Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation was not reached. The sources added, however, that contacts with the PFLP will continue and that the leadership has not given up hope that the PFLP might even eventually participate.

On the other hand, Palestinian officials here say that members of the Central Committee of Fatah and many members of the PLO Executive Committee, even those who are known to have been staunch supporters of strong strategic ties with Syria, Mr Faruq Qaddumi for instance, seem to have lost all hopes that Syria will change its position or abandon its demand for the resignation of Mr 'Arafat. Moreover, the leadership here believes that convening the PNC will not necessarily lead to further splits in the PLO since most key factions have already agreed on the principle of convening the PNC by the end of november. "The division in the Palestinian arena is already there but we hope that the PFLP will not choose to join the other side 'the National Alliance,'" said a Fatah Central Committee member.

Agreeing on a venue to hold the PNC remains a major obstacle that has provoked serious debate here. All Palestinian factions agree that Algeria is the most logic choice. But the Algerians have not given a final answer yet and is still dicussing the issue with representatives of the "National Alliance" who arrived in the Algerian capital last week amidst a strong feeling of dismay among the PLO leadership here. The deputy military commander of the PLO, Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), was supposed to leave for Algeria Tuesday to continue discussions on Algeria hosting the PNC but it seemed that the Algerians were still busy and could not receive a Fatah delegation yet. The Fatah Central Committee, according to Palestinian sources, has decided not to send a delegation until they are invited by the Algerians. But according to a senior Fatah official, the Central Committee has still hopes of Algeria hosting the PNC.

WAFA Editor Criticizes Remarks by Ahmad Jibril

LD161002 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Text] "There Is No Way Except the Palestinian Way" is the title of an article by WAFA's political editor in reply to recent statements by Ahmad Jibril:

Ahmad Jibril, and nobody else, is revealing all the cards and all the players and all the rules of the conspiracy game in which three Arab countries participated. As Jibril said, the participants were Syria, Libya, and South Yemen and eight Palestinian organizations: PFLP, DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine], Al-Sa'iqah, the General Command, the Popular Struggle, 'Abd al-Fatah Ghanim of the Palestinian Liberation Front, the Communist Party, and the dissident group opposed to the PLO and its legitimate leadership.

The WAFA political editor adds: It is amazing and poses more than one question that Ahmad Jibril was commissioned to make this statement in the magazine of the Syrian Nationalist Party, especially after the brave rebellion of 'Isam al-Mahayri which engulfed the party leadership. For this to occur, especially at this time, is a matter which would stop even a passerby. We, as a Palestinian revolution, could not care less about answering Ahmad Jibril. As they say in the ancient proverb: The dog barks but the caravan moves on.What concerns us is the meaning behind the instruction to Ahmad Jibril, at this specific moment, to say what he said in *SABAH AL-KHAYR* and to reveal that the regimes in Damascus, Tripoli, and Aden and the organizations of left-wing violence and armed struggle had been planning, organizing, and arranging since 1978 to strike at and to liquidate the Palestinian leadership.

Ahmad Jibril, and nobody else, reveals the secret of the position taken by the Damascus regime during the Zionist storming of Beirut, when that regime signed the cease-fire agreement with the invasion army and withdrew its own army. Ahmad Jibril also reveals the secret of the position adopted by these same Palestinian organizations when they repeatedly insisted and appealed to Abu 'Ammar to agree to leave Beirut, go to Damascus, and accept all the conditions of invasion.

To be absolutely honest, Ahmad Jibril in his historic press interview — if history still has a meaning for some people — was very polite in his use of swear words addressed to the leadership of the Palestinian people, to the Fatah leadership, and to its leader Yasir 'Arafat, as compared with the swear words, insults and accusations of opportunism, weakness, revisionism, and even implicit treason which he addressed to the leaders of the great Palestinian left, specifically the two leaders George Habash and

Nayif Hawatimah. Why was this? Are they saying: We are playing the game with your own cards, gentlemen? Or are they saying that cleverness in political action and pretending to be clever have their purposes? Or are they saying: We have blocked your escape after burning the cover under which you were hiding and you have no choice but to sink into the sea or to sink into our traps? Why is all this said now? Why, specifically, is Ahmad Jibril revealing the secret of the Syrian-Libyan invasion of Al-Biqa' and Tripoli and the Palestinian camps? Is it because the time for settling accounts has come?

This does not surprise us at all, because we are the guardians of Palestinian blood. But the opponents are exposing themselves, and this is enough for us. We are vindicated before our people — this great people who, with patience, offered opportunitiesto all who asked — even the rogues and the liars and those who fought other people's battles and who used the language of others. Our great people in exile know how to respond at the right moment in order to point out the innocent [words indistinct]. According to the ancient proverb: A reasonable enemy is better than an ignorant friend. But we are wondering today what happens when this enemy is himself and is also ignorant — and even crudely ignorant? But ignorance is similar to illness and it must be cured so that [words indistinct]. But what can we say about people who claim to be knowledgeable and progressive, while Ahmad Jibril is drowning them, exposing them, and destroying their credibility in front of their people? What can we say about people who (?rely) on Jibril while making preparations among the exposed capitals and who enjoy following the line of those capitals as their satellites? We can only say that nothing is more aware than the Arab Palestinian conscience. There is no way except the Palestinian Arab way. The Palestinian will is united with the Arab will. Some people have lost their way and are lost in the passages of the capitals. Will those who are drunk with the illusions of the corrupt capitals wake up?

Talks on Anti-'Arafat Coalition Underway

NC161502 Paris AFP in English 1417 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Shtawrah, Lebanon, Oct 16 (AFP) — Libya, Syria, dissident Palestinian groups and leftist Lebanese parties are holding talks on the formation of an anti-'Arafat, anti-Egypt coalition, well-informed sources said here today. The coalition, to be called Nationalist Action Strategic Command, would, according to its proposed platform, work to bring down Yasir 'Arafat as leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and to reunify the PLO, split by dissension since the withdrawal of Palestinian fighters from Beirut last year. The sources said the alliance would also call for opposition to the return of Egypt to the Arab fold, and for support to "nationalist Jordanian forces in their struggle against the Hashemite Kingdom" of King Husayn.

Syria, Libya and other radical Arab interests have condemned Jordan's resumption this month of diplomatic relations with Egypt, which it had severed in 1979 because of that country's peace treaty with Israel.

The anti-'Arafat Palestinian elements in the proposed coalition include dissidents from his Fatah, the Al-Sa'iqah grouping, the Popular Front-General Command and the Palestine People's Liberation Front. Together, they are called the Palestinian Nationalist Alliance. The Lebanese parties involved are the Progressive Socialist Party of Walid Junblatt, the Communist Party and the pro-Syrian Lebanese Ba'ath Party, jointly known as the National Democratic Front. Delegations from the Palestinian and the Lebanese fronts have recently visited Libya.

SANA: Jordan Bans Palestinians From Leaving For Tunis

JN161549 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1458 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Oct (SANA) — Palestinian officials who visited Tunis at the invitation of the Fatah Central Committee have said that Jordan prevented a number of Palestinian leaders, who live in Jordan and who received an invitation to travel to Tunis, from leaving the country. In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-WATAN*, these officials said that those who were prevented from travelling were: 'Azmi al-Khawaja of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Ishaq al-Khatib of the Palestinian Communist Party; and 'Abd al-Rahman Jabbarah, former head of the PLO office in Amman. They said that the Jordanian authorities did not give any reasons for their actions.

New Front Formed With Palestinians, Libya, Syria

JN161637 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] An informed source in Shtawrah has stated that Libya and Syria are currently discussing, with some Palestinian and Lebanese parties, a plan to form a joint front that would be called the Strategic National Action Leadership [Qiyadat al-'Amal al-Watani al-Istratiji]. The source noted that this leadership would comprise the Palestinian National Alliance and the Lebanese National Democratic Front in addition to Damascus and Tripoli.

Resistance Attacks Lahd's Home in South Lebanon

JN161715 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men today attacked the home of the so-called leader of the agent army of southern Lebanon Antoine Lahd in Harbush in occupied southern Lebanon. Many elements of the agent militias were killed or wounded in the daring machine gun and rocket attack. A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operation but did not mention his losses. He said, as usual, that his forces and elements of the agent militias immediately carried out an extensive search campaign and arrested a large number of citizens on the pretext of collaborating with the resistance men, who withdrew safely to base.

KUNA: New Arab Press Agencies Service to Europe

LD171018 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1524 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 15 Oct (KUNA) — The Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) today began a new news service from the Arab world to Europe via the Kuwaiti News Agency

(KUNA). The new news service is transmitted via KUNA after the KUNA head office here prepares the bulletin on the bases of reports received from the member news agencies.

The new service is in response to wishes expressed by national news agencies in Europe to Arab news agencies with a view to exchanging news on professional bases and to transmit pictures from the Arab world about developments in the Middle East as seen by the information media in the region. KUNA transmits FANA news via satellite to the KUNA office in Vienna. KUNA then delivers it to the offices of the Austrian News Agency (APA) which then distributes it to 24 subscribers in Eastern and Western Europe. FANA service will also cover events connected with the Middle East [words indistinct].

GULF AFFAIRS

Gas, Salvage Experts Board Stricken LPG Tanker

GF161232 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 16 Oct 84 p 1

[Report by Maruf Khwajah]

[Text] Gas and salvage experts yesterday boarded the stricken Greek ship, *Gaz Fountain*, "somewhere in the Gulf" to reactivate the refrigeration system which would secure the abandoned vessel's cargo of 19,500 tonnes of liquefied butane and propane gas enabling its eventual transfer to another ship.

A source connected with the operation told *KHALEEJ TIMES* that the *Gaz Fountain*, a 29,000dwt vessel set ablaze in an air strike last Friday, was "nowhere near Dubayy or indeed any human habitation in the area." Dismissing reports that the vessel had been towed to within 20 miles of Dubayy, the source said the ship's owners — the Athens-based Naftomar Shipping and Trading Co — and those concerned with its salvage, were fully aware of the "dangerous situation." There was no question therefore of attempting to bring it anywhere near a port. He would only say that the ship was somewhere in the Gulf and had been boarded yesterday by surveyors and experts attempting to reactivate the gas tanks' refrigeration system.

The source said the description of the *Gaz Fountain* as "a floating time-bomb" was inaccurate. While the danger posed by the damaged vessel could not be underestimated, there was no danger of a huge explosion taking place, because once the refrigeration system was off, the gas, reaching a higher temperature, would start "boiling off." This would activate the safety valves in the tanks which would then allow the gas to escape. It was the emission of gas rather than the threat of an explosion which constituted the danger, and for this reason the vessel was being kept at a considerable distance from populated areas. The situation expected to stabilise shortly when the ship's gas cargo is transferred.

UAE Paper Reports Condition of Hit Liberian Ship

GF161305 Doha QNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Dubayy, 16 Oct (QNA) — An official source at the Dubayy dry dock reported that the Liberian tanker *World Knight* is regarded as a total loss because it sustained considerable damage in the aerial attack on 8 October in Gulf waters. The source added that the cost of repairs are estimated at somewhere between $10 and $12 million. Purchasing a tanker of the same size costs only $6 million.

In a statement to the UAE newspaper *AL-BAYAN*, published today, the source said that the technical committee who checked the damages prepared a report for the owners of the tanker and the insurance company in order to make an appropriate decision. The source pointed out that the dry dock is ready to make the necessary repairs, if the owners approve, which may take up to 5 months. The source expected that the tanker will be sold as scrap by the insurance company, who in this case will pay comprehensive reparation to the owners of the tanker.

GCC Ministerial Meetings Set for Oct, Nov

LD161701 Riyadh SPA in English 1216 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 16, SPA — A number of ministerial meetings of the GCC are set before the fifth session of the GCC Supreme Council due to take place in Kuwait on November 27, it was announced here today. The first such parley will be the GCC posts, telephones and telegraphs (PTT) ministers in Riyadh on October 24, which will be preceded by a prepatory meeting at under-secretaries' level on October 23. The GCC industry, electric power and water ministers will hold a two-day session due to start in Riyadh on October 30. The GCC oil and mineral resources ministers conference will take place in Doha, Qatar, on November 3. The council's Finance and Economic Cooperation Committee will hold its eighth session in Riyadh on November 6 at the ministerial level. On the other hand, a meeting of the Gulf Investment Organisation will be held in the Saudi capital also on November 6.

Consultations are underway to set a date for the GCC planning ministers meeting to be convened before the GCC Supreme Council's meeting in Kuwait. The GCC commerce ministers will attend the inauguration of the first industrial fair of the Council's member states due to start on November 10. They will also attend a meeting of the Gulf standardisation and specifications authority on the same day. The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

GCC Commanders Comment on Military Maneuvres

LD171036 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Hafr Al Batin, Saudi Arabia, Oct 16 — SPA — Commanders of armed forces of the six-nation GCC have stressed the importance of the Peninsula Shield II's manoeuvres now in progress in Hafr Al Batin, about 700 kms northeast of Riyadh.

Commander of the UAE's force in the exercises Major Musa 'Ali 'Abdallah said the manouevres proved to be effective for military capabilities of the Council's armed forces. Lessons learned from last year exercises code-named Peninsula Shield I had been submitted to recent GCC summit, he said.

Commander of the Qatari force Sayif 'Ali al-Hajri stressed the importance of such manouvres, particularly at a time when the region is exposed to foreign threats.

Kuwaiti Force Commander Brigidier Riyadh al-Salih said the idea of creating a GCC rapid deployment force had been sparked by current conditions prevailing the region. The idea behind forming such rapid force was basically aimed at creating a striking force to deter any designs to interfere in the GCC states' internal affairs, he said. Al-Salih said the force had to undergo continued training stages to reach its set targets. The force is now assembling to conduct tactical training, he said.

The current manouvres are aimed at realising the fighting capabilities and military coordination among the Council's member states, he added. The GCC is made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, and Oman.

BAHRAIN

Trade Delegation Departs for PRC Visit

GF170546 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 17 Oct 84 p 5

[Text] A nine-man Bahraini trade delegation will leave for China today on a week-long visit. The trip is at the invitation of the China International Trust Investment Corporation, which sent a delegation to Bahrain earlier this year. The Bahraini delegation will be headed by 'Abd al-Rasul al-Jishi, board member of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A spokesman said Bahraini traders would try to boost trade relations between the two countries.

Briefs

Outgoing French Ambassador — Manama, 15 Oct (WAKH) — Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah today received French Ambassador Rene Molinari on the expiration of his term of office in Manama. [Excerpt] [*Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Oct 84 GF*]

Bahrain-Saudi Causeway — Jeddah, 15 Oct (QNA) — Dr Sulayman al-Qurayban, director general of the Bahrain-Sarcv causeway, has noted that 75 percent of the causeway has been completed. In a statement to the Saudi newspaper *'UKAZ* published today he said that the causeway, which will be inaugurated in January 1986, will be finished at least 1 month before schedule, with a total cost of $564 million. [Summary] [*Doha QNA in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Oct 84 GF*]

KUWAIT

U.S. To Present Mideast Initiative After Elections

GF162049 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 15 Oct 84 p 17

[Report by Sattar Jabbar]

[Text] Prominent Arab sources in Tunis have revealed to *AL-WATAN* that the U.S. Administration intends to hold meetings through a third party with the Palestinian leadership in order to discuss the Middle East issue in light of a new U.S. initiative which will be proposed following the U.S. elections.

The sources revealed that Jordan and Egypt have agreed in principle to participate in any dialogue on the Middle East issue. The sources did not rule out that a joint Jordanian-Egyptian delegation will leave for Washington during the next few days to discuss this issue. The sources affirmed that the new U.S. initiative which Washington intends to propose following the U.S. elections came at the request of some moderate Arab countries. The sources said that former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger will pay a visit to the region during the next few days to present the new U.S. initiatives. The sources pointed out that this issue was discussed with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres during his recent visit to Washington. The sources said that Peres has promised Washington to present a settlement plan to include some points that differ slightly from the United Kingdom's plan suggested by King Husayn years ago.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Criticizes Weinberger Trip to Israel

GF161915 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 16 Oct (WAKH) — The Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* today commented on the visit of Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to Israel, saying that the "Weinbergian" visit to Israel speaks for itself. The paper noted that U.S. President Ronald Reagan adequately expanded the nature of the mission to Israel undertaken by his secretary of defense, as designed to oppress and coerce the Arabs; or is there any other interpretation of the U.S. President's statement on guaranteeing the qualitative superiority of Israel? The paper continues by saying that this visit speaks for itself. As Washington initiated the move to keep the Israeli economy afloat to enable Israel to overcome its economic trouble, it dispatched its secretary of defense to give Israel more sophisticated weapons manufactured in the U.S. in order that Israel might test these weapons on the Arabs. The paper said when Radio Israel reported that Weinberger's talks in Israel are designed to organize a defense in the Middle East, the radio wanted to insinuate that Israel is the vanguard of the general Western confrontation with the Soviet Union and its friends in the Middle East.

KUNA Cites FRG Spokesman on U.S.-Saudi Arms Deal

LD161426 Kuwait KUNA in English 1142 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Bonn, Oct 16 (KUNA) — A spokesman for the West German Defense Ministry said Tuesday the Bonn government was unlikely to oppose an arms deal between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia involving tanks equipped with German-built guns. The spokesman, Juergen Sudhoff, told KUNA that Washington got licence from a reputable West German arms manufacturing firm in 1979 to produce a 120-mm gun that would be installed on the German-built Leopard-2 tank. Under an agreement, Washington would use the gun in the modern American tank AM-1 and will be licenced to export the gun to any non-NATO countries with the exception of Canada and Switzerland.

Meanwhile, pro-Zionist German newspapers began Monday a campaign against the proposed American-Saudi deal, because the American AM-1 tank is equipped with a German-made gun. Sudhoff declined comment on the press reports and would only say that Chancellor Helmut Kohl still adhered to a policy of firm cooperation with Saudi Arabia after his visit earlier in the year to the Kingdom.

The Bonn Government had come under fierce criticism a few months ago from Israel and Zionist lobby in West Germany when it was about to sanction sales to Saudi Arabia of the Leopard tanks. Last spring the usually well-informed *DER SPIEGEL* magazine disclosed that Israel had obtained designs of the West German gun and had plans to produce it to be used in the Israeli Merkava tank.

AL-QABAS Reports USSR Desire To Form Arab Axis

GF161957 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Informed sources have told *AL-QABAS* that the Soviets desire to form an Arab axis equivalent to the new Egyptian-Jordanian axis through Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Moscow, which is taking place at the urgent request of Damascus. The sources said that Moscow believes that the new Jordanian-Egyptian axis has resulted in a lack of balance in the Middle East, favoring U.S. settlement efforts, which are regarded by Moscow as a threat to its influence in the region, and as a threat to Arab rights. The sources said that Moscow desires to eliminate the Syrian-Palestinian differences and other internal problems in the front opposing the Camp David method in order to form a similar axis which can have a strong effect on any peace efforts.

UK Defense Official Arrives for Talks

LD161501 Kuwait KUNA in English 1055 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 16 (KUNA) — Chief of Staff General 'Abdallah Farraj al-Ghanim met Tuesday with Britain's Minister of State for Defense Procurement Adam Butler. Means of developing bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting in addition to military issues of mutual concern. The British minister of state is scheduled to leave here for Bahrain Tuesday evening.

South Korean President's Visit Postponed

LD171012 Kuwait KUNA in English 1347 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 16 (KUNA) — Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Rashid al-Rashid Tuesday discussed with the Korean Ambassador Pak Chong-sang postponement of the upcoming visit of the South Korean president to Kuwait. Rashid told KUNA that Kuwait proposed postponement of the visit to a later date because of the country's preoccupation with preparations for the fifth GCC summit scheduled for November 27. The South Korean ambassador, Rashid added, renewed his country's foreign minister invitation for Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed, the deputy premier, foreign and information minister, to visit Seoul. The renewed invitation will be conveyed to Shaykh Sabah when he returns home, Rashid said.

OMAN

Oman Commerce Minister, Delegation Leave for UAE

GF161809 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Colonel Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, minister of industry and commerce, and the delegation accompanying him, left Oman today for brotherly UAE on a 3-day official visit. In a statement to a radio correspondent, the minister of industry and commerce said that his visit to the UAE is in response to an invitation from his UAE counterpart, Sayf al-Jarwan. He added: The visit will provide an opportunity to exchange views with UAE officials on matters of mutual interest to the GCC states in the spheres of commerce and industry. He further stated: Many issues will be discussed, especially trade relations and laws governing trade relations between the two states.

In reply to a question on the prospect of setting up cooperative industrial projects between the two countries, the minister said: This was an idea put forward to all the the GCC countries. The GCC Secretariat is studying this matter. We hope that this proposal will be discussed by the GCC states in the near future.

The delegation accompanying the minister of commerce and industry included a number of ministry officials. He was seen off at the sultan's private airport by Ahmad ibn 'Abd al-Nabi Makki, under secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; the UAE charge d'affaires; and a number of officials of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Briefs

Envoy to Seychelles — 'Abdallah ibn Sa'id al-Balushi presented his credentials to Seychelles President Albert Rene as nonresident Omani ambassador to Seychelles. He conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. President Albert Rene handed him a written message for His Majesty Sultan Qabus dealing with strengthening relations between the two friendly countries. [Text] [*Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Oct 84 GF*]

SAUDI ARABIA

Official Absent From Brazil Appears in London

LD170924 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2350 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Oct (SPA) — Concerning an SPA report on the absence of 'Abdallah Khalifah — one of the private aides of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense, aviation, and auditor general — a press source accompanying his royal highness has stated tonight that it has become known to officials that Mr 'Abdallah Khalifah had left Brazil without informing his colleagues and had arrived in London on Friday morning, 12 October, suffering from a cold which kept him bedridden for 4 days at his house without anyone being aware of his arrival. However, he now enjoys good health.

Efforts To Poison Arab Wells, Force Emigration Fail

LD152358 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Husayn al-'Askari commentary]

[Text] Dozens of Arab citizens in the occupied territories were taken to hospitals yesterday as a result of the water in two Arab villages being poisoned by Jewish settlers.

This was not the first operation of its kind in which the water supplies were poisoned by enemy authorities or by Jewish settlers.

Last year, the water supplies in Arab schools in the occupied Arab territories underwent a similar treatment and hundreds of Arab students developed symptoms and were taken to hospitals where analysis confirmed that the drinking waters were infected with poison. The enemy authorities did not take any measures; they tried to bypass the motives behind this crime and its circumstances, and the tragedy was callously covered up, in spite of the fact that international organizations investigated the crime and declared the water in some Arab schools was in fact poisoned. The enemy's sense of security that international society will never condemn him, was and still is the encouraging factor behind his actions against Arab citizens. These strategic plans are aimed at exerting pressure on Arabs, by means of terrorism and coercion, to force them to emigrate from their land, thereby emptying the land of its native inhabitants.

Today, when the inhabitants of Bata and Dir al-Nar are exposed to mass poisoning as a result of the Jewish settlers placing huge quantities of the poisonous material (?ohinadol) in the drinking water in both villages, the operation is not just a coincidence or the product of Jewish settlers' hatred — a hatred developed and protected by the occupation authorities — but also comes from a firm policy of the enemy which proceeds along several axes and meets ultimately at a major axis — to empty the Arab land of its original inhabitants by means of terrorism. It is rather unfortunate for the enemy that he faces a steadfast people who have vowed to die on their land in order not to offer it up as a tasty morsel for a treacherous enemy. Therefore, the enemy's actions which confront the firmness and faith of the Palestinian Arab people will assume many forms. These means will not succeed.

Riyadh Praises GCC Military Maneuvers

LD161555 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Analysis by 'Abdallah Salim Bikhat]

[Text] Time has proven that the GCC was not born in a vacuum, but came as a fulfillment of the GCC peoples' aspirations and emphasized the active role which the GCC states can play by devoting all their capacities to serving the Arab and Muslim nation and international society as a whole, in order to achieve stability and peace.

Between the 3d GCC summit and the 4th GCC summit in Doha, the military sphere in the region witnessed an important development manifested in the Peninsula Shield I maneuvers conducted in the UAE. Those maneuvers achieved an objective which was a reflection of the region's determination to shoulder its responsibilities in order to secure peace and stability and to defend the integrity of each country's territory. Tomorrow, as an example of Gulf cohesion, the Kingdom will embrace the final stage of the Peninsula Shield II manuevers in order to implement the GCC leaders' decisions and recommendations aimed at acquiring more experience and skill in the field of modern military tactics in order to establish a united military force. Observers have described these manuevers, in which military forces from all GCC members will participate, as a qualitative change aimed at consolidating the GCC armed forces, training them well in fighting techniques, thereby making them ready for the integration stage as planned.

Gulf security as viewed by GCC officials is the responsibility of its sons. From the first day of the GCC's birth serious efforts have been made to build a military force capable of confronting any aggressor. This force, which is growing quickly day by day and has become an established fact and a living example, has never been directed against anyone; rather, it is used in the service of the Arab and Muslim nation to defend the sanctuaries. It is neither a grouping nor an axis endangering the security of others. It is a clear sign of the correctness of the collective work of the GCC states which will finally achieve the goals of the region's sons and their noble ambitions.

The GCC is making great efforts to achieve a spirit of harmony among its sons and to raise the level of their capabilities in all fields. Military cooperation is part of the GCC sons' cohesion in order to achieve the expected and desired goals in specific political circumstances.

UAE

Oil Minister Calls for Cut in Oil Prices

GF170514 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 17 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Moves by the UAE to slash oil prices yesterday threatened world markets. Oil Minister Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah called for a 40 cent-a-barrel cut, as Norway offered discounts of $1-$2 a barrel on its North Sea crude. The UAE and non-OPEC Norway have had trouble selling light crude at official government prices due to rising demand for heavier, cheaper oil.

Al-'Utaybah urged directors of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co to approve the 40-cent reduction and an additional discount of a 15 cent-a-barrel increase in the equity margin for foreign producers.

In Stavenger, Norway, the Norwegian state oil company Statoil has offered to discount its crude by between $1 and $2 a barrel to shore up prices on the spot market, where oil sold to the highest bidder has been bringing about $2 less than the official North Sea price.

Al-'Utaybah, chairman of OPEC's market monitoring committee, had been expected to propose steeper discounts following an interview in which he criticized OPEC for not sanctioning a price cut for hard-pressed producers of light crude.

The UAE is the first OPEC member to publicly advocate a price drop since OPEC lowered its base price by $5 a barrel in March 1983. In face of stiff competition and weak demand for light crude, the UAE's production has plummeted below its OPEC quota of 1.1 mbd. Observers believe the Abu Dhabi Oil Company and the country's cabinet will endorse the increase.

Further Reportage on Visit of Somali President
GF161600 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Talks were held today in Al-Mushrif Palace between UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre. The session was attended by Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid [former commander in chief of UAE Armed Forces]; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Khamis Bitarmiti, director of the President's Office. Also attending were Abdulle Ahmed Abdu, Somali minister for presidential affairs, and Abdurahman Osman Omar, Somali ambassador to the UAE.

Rashid 'Abdallah stated that during the meeting they discussed current Arab developments and the need for future coordination among the brothers for the purpose of bringing about an Arab meeting guaranteeing real solidarity among the Arab countries. The talks also dealt with the Somali-Ethiopian conflict, the situation in the Horn of Africa, and security in the Red Sea in the wake of the recent mining incidents. The minister of state for foreign affairs added that the talks also dealt with bilateral relations and ways of developing joint cooperation between the two countries.

Departs UAE 16 Oct
GF161604 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1155 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 16 Oct (WAKH) — Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre left Abu Dhabi today following a 2-day official visit to the UAE.

Danish Prime Minister Arrives for 4-Day Visit
GF161822 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter arrived in the UAE today for a 4-day visit. He was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad; ministers and state officials; high-ranking Army and police officers; Arab and foreign diplomats; Rashid al-Mukhawi, the UAE ambassador to Denmark; and Erik Weinber, the Danish charge d'affaires.

Sa'id al-Darmaki, chief of protocol, boarded the plane to escort the Danish prime minister when he disembarked. At the airport the Danish prime minister was given an official reception. Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad welcomed him. The Danish prime minister introduced the senior members of his delegation to Shaykh Hamdan. The two men then walked toward the platform and the national anthems of Demark and the UAE were played. The Danish prime minister, accompanied by Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, then inspected the guard of honor and greeted members of the official welcoming party. After a short rest in the airport reception hall the visiting leader was escorted to the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel where he will stay during his visit.

An official session of talks will be held on 17 October at the Al-Khudayrah Palace between the UAE delegation, headed by Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, and the Danish delegation, headed by Poul Schluter. The talks will deal with the strengthening of economic and trade relations between the two countries, new developments in the Middle East, the situation in the Gulf, and a number of current international issues.

An escort of honor headed by Sa'id al-Ghayth, minister of state for cabinet affairs, will accompany the Danish prime minister during his visit to the country.

President Receives Omani Commerce Minister
GF161828 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 16 Oct (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received Salim 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, Omani minister of industry and commerce, who arrived here earlier today. The meeting was attended by Sayf al-Jarwan, minister of economy and commerce.

Abu Ghazalah Addresses Nile Valley Committee

Views Nile Valley Security

NC161653 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA) — Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister, minister of defense and war production and Armed Forces commander in chief, has said that the basis of Nile valley national security lies in securing Egypt and Sudan against either internal or external threat, safeguarding the two countries' interests, and creating the best conditions for exploiting their natural resources in a way that will achieve their development goals.

Abu Ghazalah said that the concept of national security includes many objectives, including the achievement of economic, political, social, and military security. He emphasized that the security of the Nile valley can only be assured through integration between Egypt and Sudan.

This was contained in a statement made by Abu Ghazalah at a meeting of the Nile Valley Parliament's Political Integration and National Security Committee today. The meeting was chaired by Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of both the People's Assembly and the current session of the Nile Valley Parliament, and was attended by the Sudanese People's Assembly Speaker and the Nile Valley Parliament alternate speaker.

Noting the threats facing the two nations, Abu Ghazalah said that the Nile valley is surrounded by numerous fronts: In the northeast there is Israel, in the west, Libya and in the southeast there is the Arabian Peninsula, separated from the Nile valley by the Red Sea. Ethiopia and the rest of the Nile valley's littoral states lie to the south.

Speaking about the northeastern front, represented by Israel, Abu Ghazalah said: Although the situation between us changed with the conclusion of the peace treaty, to which we are committed, we cannot ignore the continuous growth of Israel's military might, as well as its unceasing movement across its borders into neighboring states.

In his reference to the western front, represented by Libya, Abu Ghazalah said that there are no differences among the peoples of Egypt, Sudan, and Libya. The dispute, he said, is the result of the Libyan leader's lack of faith in security and peace in the region and of his pursuit of a policy based on the promotion of differences and unrest in the area. He is also seeking leadership and amassing weapons in excess of the Libyan Army's requirements.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah emphasized that despite the fact that the Nile valley strategy takes into consideration the increasing size of the Libyan forces, Egypt and Sudan are not seeking war with Libya.

Speaking about the dangerous situation in the Arab Gulf, Abu Ghazalah stated that events there certainly affect the national security of the Nile valley. He said that the war in that area is preventing the smooth flow of marine transport in the Red Sea, as well as the transportation of oil to its consumers — a fact that damages the area's economy and developmentalplans. He said: Expenditures on the Gulf war to date total about $200 billion, an amount that could ensure development for the entire Arab area.

Touching on the southern front of the Nile valley, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said: We hope that Ethiopia's current threat against Sudan will end, for it is affecting the development process in southern Sudan and development projects in the Nile valley, which seek economic improvement in both Egypt and Sudan.

Continuing, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah spoke of the plans to develop the Egypt's Armed Forces until the year 1990. He said that the Armed Forces' development is based upon the most modern and scientific methods [words indistinct]. The defense minister declared that the plan for this development includes the following aspects: Egypt should acquire a deterrent force to be used when necessary, so that any country that thinks of threatening Egypt will be convinced that it has a military force that must not be underestimated. The plan also envisions the diversification of arms supply and the production of Egyptian weapons.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah noted that Egypt will participate in the military products exhibition that will be held on 10 November and in which 172 world companies will take part. Egypt's products in the exhibition will be of the highest quality.

Referring to the Armed Forces' role in public service projects, Abu Ghazalah said that the purpose of this participation is to achieve self-sufficiency in the Armed Forces and to train some of the Armed Forces' technical personnel.

The field marshal said that the Armed Forces' national service branch has participated in a number of such projects, including the installation of telephone lines, the construction of bridges, and the provision of food assistance.

Committee Expresses Confidence

NC161310 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, stressed that the Nile valley's strategy of national security focuses on possessing a deterrent force capable of preventing aggression.

Speaking before the Political Integration and National Security Committee of the Nile Valley Parliament today, he said that we have started to develop the Armed Forces on a scientific basis that focuses on obtaining advanced types of military equipment, diversifying the sources of weapons, and creating a developed industrial-military base.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah reviewed the strategic importance of the Arab and Middle East regions and the international developments that affect them.

At the end of its meeting, the Political Integration and National Security Committee expressed its full confidence in the Armed Forces of Egypt and Sudan and its appreciation for these forces' defense of the Nile valley's security and safety.

Ambassador-Designate to Jordan Arrives in Cairo

NC161133 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1117 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA) — Ambassador Ihab Wahbah, Egypt's nominated ambassador to Jordan, arrived in Cairo today on a visit lasting several days.

Foreign Ministry Affirms Support for Namibia

NC161631 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA) — The Arab Republic of Egypt has reaffirmed its support for the people of Namibia in their struggle for independence. It also declared that it will continue to help SWAPO, the sole representative of the Namibian people.

This was contained in a statement made by an official Foreign Ministry source on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Namibia's occupation. The official source said that Egypt affirms its support for the Namibian people and is joined in this by all the peoples of Africa and by all others who love freedom and support human rights.

Nile Valley Radio, Magazine Established

NC162157 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif briefed the Popular Organizations Committee of the Nile Valley Parliament tonight on information cooperation between Egypt and Sudan. He reported that the Nile Valley radio has been established and that a monthly magazine called *THE NILE VALLEY* will come out in the next few months. He added that joint television production will start with a series called "Islam in Africa." Al-Sharif pointed out that studies are underway on extending Arab satellite services to the Nile Valley and on coordinating the policies of Egypt and Sudan in areas of external information and broadcasting.

Briefs

Omani Officials Depart — Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA) — Omani Information Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas left Cairo for home this afternoon following a private visit to Egypt of a number of days, during which he met with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif for a discussion of means of strengthening bilateral relations in the field of information. Omani Ambassador to Cairo Ghalib 'Abdallah Jubran also left for home, at the end of his term of office in Cairo. [Excerpt] [*Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 16 Oct 84 NC*]

Reportage on Visit by Jordan's King Husayn

King Husayn Arrives

JN161709 Baghdad INA in English 1700 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad , oct 16 INA — King Husayn of Jordan arrived here this evening on an official visit to Iraq. The Jordanian monarch was received at the airport by President Saddam Husayn and high ranking Iraqi officials.

Official Talks Begin

JN161942 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA) — The official talks between Iraq and Jordan have begun. President Saddam Husayn chaired the Iraqi side and King Husayn chaired the Jordanian side.

The talks dealt with relations between the two fraternal countries, the Arab situation, the threats to which the Arab nation is exposed, and ways to confront these threats within the framework of solidarity and collective Arab action. They also dealt with the continuing Iranian aggression and Iraq's steadfastness in defense of the Arab nation's eastern flank.

Jordan reiterated its support for Iraq in its just battle against the Iranian regime's aggression.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ahmad Husayn, director of the presidential office; and 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of irrigation and head of the honorary mission accompanying the Jordanian monarch. They were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Army Commander Staff General Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, and Royal Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah.

Amman on Baghdad Talks

JN170724 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn and the Iraqi side led by President Saddam Husayn held two rounds of talks in Baghdad last night. During the talks, which lasted for 4 hours, the two sides comprehensively reviewed Arab and regional situations and the dimensions of the current situation in light of Arab and international developments.

The two sides also reviewed ways of tackling the rift in Arab ranks. They stressed the importance of building an entrenched Arab solidarity to confront challenges to the Arab nation. They also reviewed the firm bilateral relations and joint coordination and cooperation in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Attending the talks on the Jordanian side were Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Staff General Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

On the Iraqi side, the talks were attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ahmad Husayn, director of the presidential office; 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of irrigation and head of the accompanying honorary escort mission; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

King Husayn Departs

JN171103 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1054 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA) — King Husayn of Jordan concluded his 1-day official visit to Iraq and left Baghdad at noon today.

The Jordanian king was accorded an official sendoff in which President Saddam Husayn and several RCC members and ministers participated.

Tariq 'Aziz To Pay 'Working Visit' to USSR

JN161546 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will pay a working visit to the Soviet Union in the second half of October this year.

This was stated to INA by a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry.

Oil Ministry Official Holds Meetings in USSR

For INA reportage on the visit of 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, under secretary for exploration affairs of the Iraqi Oil Ministry and president of the National Oil Company, to the Soviet Union for economic meetings with CEMA and Soviet officials, see the Middle East and North Africa section of the 17 October Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT*.

Israeli Patrol Intercepts Ship 14 Oct

JN161531 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA) — Iraq has strongly protested against the piracy committed by the Zionist entity when one of its naval patrols intercepted the Iraqi ship *Babil* while it was sailing in Jordanian territorial waters on its way to the port of Aqaba last Sunday.

Iraq said that by this act the Zionist entity again demonstrates its failure to abide by international law, a matter that is considered a flagrant defiance of the will of the international community and the resolutions of the international bodies and organizations.

This came in a message Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, addressed to Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, and asked to be published as an official UN Security Council document.

In his message, 'Aziz said: Iraq, while denouncing this cowardly act and this exposed piracy, calls on the international community with all its bodies and organizations to adopt firmer and more serious stands toward the aggressor in order to prevent him from disregarding and continuously violating the international charters and norms.

The message said that the Iraqi ship *Babil* was sailing in Jordanian territorial waters and heading for the Jordanian port of Aqaba on Sunday, 14 October 1984, when a patrol belonging to the Zionist entity intercepted it and asked the ship's captain to give an account of the ship's cargo. The captain rejected this flagrant interference in his ship's affairs by a side that is not entitled to commit such an act from the viewpoint of international law.

However, the Zionist patrol continued its behavior that contravened the international law and attacked the ship. The Zionist patrol fired on the ship, thus committing another more insolent violation of the rules of international navigation which do not allow any side whatsoever to interfere in the affairs of a commercial ship that is innocently sailing in regional waters, especially in the waters of a foreign country.

Israeli 'Sea Piracy' Condemned

JN161632 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Unscheduled commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: The sea piracy committed by a Zionist patrol against the Iraqi ship *Babil*, which was sailing for the Jordanian port of Aqaba, is part of the organized hostile practices being exercised by the gangs of the Zionist entity against Arab countries. It is a piratical act that reveals the extent of the Zionists' disregard of international norms.

The method the Zionists used against the ship *Babil* reaffirms that Iraq constitutes a nightmare for Zionism because its unwavering stands have not changed despite all the plots to keep it removed from the arena of confrontation against the Zionist entity. It is definite that the Zionist entity has again exploited the Iranian aggression on Iraq, as it did before when the Zionist aircraft raided the Tammuz nuclear reactor.

The fact that the Zionist patrol had intercepted *Babil*, asked for clarifications about the ship and its cargo, and fired on it after its captain refused to respond to this strange request, indicates the hostile spirit of the Zionist entity and demonstrates this entity's desire to disregard all the acknowledged international principles and ethics. This is so because the Zionist entity is innocent of such noble values. It is basically an entity based on usurpation, murder, and crime.

The world is requested to adopt practical measures to prevent the Zionist entity from going too far in such acts. It is definite that denunciation, protest, and condemnation cannot be effective if not coupled by deterrent measures that will make the Zionist entity understand that the world disapproves of piracy in the last quarter of the 20th century and that the world cannot remain silent toward those who are indifferent to international rules, norms, and laws. The Zionist entity should understand that the law of the jungle is no longer proper as a policy in this age and that the power supplied to it by the United States cannot intimidate the peoples who respect themselves and care for their independence and sovereignty.

Armed Forces Command Issues Communique No 1,620

JN161810 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1735 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Communique No 1,620 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 October 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In continuation of the epic of defending Iraq's soil and great people, the heroes of our glorious Armed Forces are scoring the most splendid epics on every inch of the battlefield and at a time when they are stronger and more determined to impose a just stand on that stray clique that has known only the erroneous course. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. The brave artillery men carried out violent and concentrated strikes agaisnt enemy positions, troops, and vehicles in the operational area east of Basra, scoring effective hits and inflicting losses in men and equipment.

Elsewhere in the same sector, two enemy troops were killed and others were wounded.

2. One of our forward units fired on enemy positions, troop concentrations, and weapon emplacements in the Maysan sector, killing or wounding several troops, setting two hardware stockpiles on fire, and destroying one machine gun. Flames were seen gutting other positions.

3. Using artillery and other weapons, one of our forward units in the central sector of the operational theater fired on enemy vehicles carrying personnel, scoring direct hits. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses.

4. One observation post and one vehicle were destroyed in the northern sector of the operational theater.

5. Yesterday afternoon, the vile enemy shelled civilian areas in the Basra environs with heavy artillery.

6. New groups of Iranian military men sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the operational theater. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 October 1984

Iranian Refugees Leave for U.S., France

JN161313 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA) — Two groups of Iranian refugees left Baghdad today and yesterday for the United States and France.

An official spokesman at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has declared that the Iranian refugees were provided with everything suitable during their stay in Iraq.

The spokesman said that the two groups' departure was coordinated by the competent Iraqi quarters, the International Committee for the Red Cross, the U.S. Interests Section, and the French Embassy in Baghdad.

The spokesman affirmed that Iraq, prompted by its principled stand and humanitarian policy, will continue to give all kinds of assistance to Iranian refugees fleeing from the Khomeyni regime's tyranny, persecution, and inhuman practices so they can live in peace and security.

AL-THAWRAH Raps British Military Aid to Iran

JN170742 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA) — The newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* ridicules Britain's plans to help Iran establish rapid deployment forces in the Arab Gulf area.

In an article published here today, the paper explains that Britain's aim is a political one with a military cover to improve British positions and alliances inside Iran in circumstances that are no longer in the interest of the Iranian rulers and their supporters.

AL-THAWRAH points out that Britain under Thatcher's leadership, and due to wrong assessment and arrogance, has decided to provide Iran with military equipment and to help it to establish rapid deployment forces equipped with supply and landing craft run by Rolls Royce engines.

The paper recalls Britain's well-known roles against the Arabs and peoples of other nations, especially its role in handing over Palestine to the Zionists, and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) to the racist Ian Smith clique before African independence.

AL-THAWRAH says Britain, whose Conservative leaders brag about their political acumen and genius, must not forget the Iraqi Army has defeated Iranian militarism and that Iran does not have the necessary manpower for rapid deployment forces.

The paper points to the damage done to the Iranian Navy as a result of Iraqi air and naval strikes since the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war in 1980, damage that will be difficult to compensate for with ships and engines until several years after the end of the war.

AL-THAWRAH urges the British Government also not to overlook the new military strength of the GCC countries. It says: Nobody should overlook or ignore the effect of this strength in any future Iranian or British plan. Concluding, the paper affirms that Britain still thinks that the Arab countries are mere oilfields that can be plundered and not independent sovereign states. It says: Oil is a national wealth that no state will be allowed to approach. Furthermore, Iran is no longer in a position to play the role of policeman in the Gulf after the successive military defeats it sustained at Iraq's hand.

King Husayn Returns From Baghdad 17 Oct
JN171253 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him returned to Amman this afternoon following a 2-day working visit to Baghdad. During the visit, his majesty held talks with his brother President Saddam Husayn on bilateral relations. The talks also dealt with an assessment of the Arab and regional situation and the dimensions of the current situation in light of Arab and international developments.

His majesty and the accompanying delegation were received at Amman Airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Senate president, the House of Representatives' speaker, his highness the chief chamberlain, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, the ministers, the chief of staff, and senior civil and military officials.

Returning with his majesty were Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

An official farewell at Baghdad Airport was accorded to his majesty and the delegation accompanying him. Present were His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; Na'im Haddad, the National Assembly speaker; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ahmad Husayn, director of the presidential office; 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of irrigation and head of the honorary mission accompanying his majesty; a number of RCC members; senior civil and military officials; the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Energy, Mineral Agreement Signed With USSR
JN161544 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The minutes of the meetings held between the officials of the Industry, Trade, and Tourism Ministry and the Soviet delegation specializing in the mineral and energy industries was signed at the Ministry today. The meetings dealt with cooperation between Jordan and the Soviet Union in the mineral and energy industries. On the Jordanian side the minutes were signed by Industry, Trade, and Tourism Minister Dr Jawad al-Anani, and on the Soviet side by Soviet Deputy Minister of the Petroleum Industry Mikhail Vasilyev.

Finance Minister Arrives in Moscow 16 Oct
JN170904 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0854 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Moscow, 17 Oct (INA) — Dr Hanna Awdah, Jordanian minister of finance, arrived here last night heading a delegation on an official visit to the USSR lasting several days.

Informed sources said that the Jordanian official will begin talks today with Soviet officials on a number of topics concerning economic cooperation between the two countries as well as on several political issues of mutual concern.

Foreign Minister on Relations With Egypt
NC170939 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Amman, 17 Oct (MENA) — Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has affirmed that President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to Jordan was successful and that his meeting with Jordan's ruler King Husayn was a meeting of brothers who are working for a common higher interest and common objectives.

In an interview with MENA, Al-Masri said that dear Egypt has always been close to us. The meeting between President Mubarak and King Husayn was not the first meeting between the two Arab leaders. When the two leaders meet, they meet to define new concepts in relations not only between Jordan and Egypt but also between Egypt and the Arab world.

He added: Undoubtedly, the results of this visit will have a positive effect on Egyptian-Arab relations and on inter-Arab relations.

Al-Masri expressed his confidence that this visit and the restoration of relations between Egypt and Jordan will be a new incentive for Egypt to work diligently and more openly for the Arab issues of interest to us all. Results will be achieved at various levels and the future will show this.

Regarding the nature of the coming move at the Arab and international level, Al-Masri said: No clear landmarks have been drafted for the future but a discussion has taken place regarding various problems in the area. There was general agreement on many of these problems. We will conclude the discussion of these points in the future so that we will march together to bring about our aspirations.

He added that it is not possible to realize or accomplish everything in 1 or 2 days or to agree on various strategic matters within this short period of time. Due to the difficult and complicated problems in the area and the international stances regarding them, it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive study of the means of action. There will be constant meetings with Cairo, God willing.

On King Husayn's visit to Moscow, Al-Masri said that the visit is being considered but no date has been agreed upon as yet.

Regarding what the Jordanian-Palestinian talks have attained and the nature of future relations between Amman and the PLO, the Jordanian minister said that the PLO continues to suffer from some internal divisions which are, unfortunately, hampering the movement of the PLO in general and its chairman in particular. He said that there is a general agreement between us, the PLO, and its chairman on many questions. If the PNC convenes, PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat wil be able to move in the direction set by the PNC and then we will be able to talk more definitely about the nature of Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

Regarding Jordan's hosting of the PNC meeting, the Jordanian minister said that it was 'Arafat who requested it.

Commenting on the statement by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres recently published in *TIME* magazine that Israel is willing to abandon part of the West Bank territories to guarantee peace in the region, Tahir al-Masri said that these words are deceitful and perfidious. Peres is making such remarks for U.S. public opinion and we do not accept these statements. The occupied territories are indivisible. We cannot abandon one part and retrieve the other because the territories are an integrated unit. There are international resolutions, led by Resolution No 242, and there is a reality and a history that confirm this. Sovereignty over territory is not divisible and if he [Peres] has any courage to do so then let him do it.

Regarding the nomination of the Jordanian ambassador to Cairo, the Jordanian minister said this will be done very soon according to the known and agreed upon diplomatic means. This subject is not discussed in newspapers because there are rules to be followed and we will follow them, but the nomination [of the ambassador] will be made very soon.

Sharaf Addresses Arab Information Ministers
JN162048 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Minister of Information Mrs Layla Sharaf has called for the setting up of an agency charged with propagating the Arab point of view throughout the world.

She said such an agency should be provided with the necessary expertise and funds to enable it to carry out an effective job. Mrs Sharaf was speaking at the opening in Tunis yesterday of a conference for Arab information ministers. She said that besides its military and political campaign, the Israeli enemy is launching a ferocious media drive against Arab civilization, heritage, and cultural values. The conference was called to discuss possible collective moves to counter Israeli media campaign in the world. The conference ended its meetings today, and asked an Arab League committee to draw up plans for a collective Arab informational campaign.

The ministers, meanwhile, issued an appeal calling on Iran to respond to peace efforts to put an end to the war with Iraq. The conference also condemned in a communique the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon, and called for an overall Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese land. The communique hailed the Lebanese national resistance to the Israeli occupation, and expressed support for the Lebanese Government efforts to liberate the Lebanese lands from the Israeli occupation.

Later today Information Minister Mrs Layla Sharaf met with the Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, and discussed with him issues related to the convening of the Arab summit. Following the meeting, Mrs Sharaf told the Jordanian news agency that Mr Klibi was optimistic over chances of convening the Arab summit before the end of this year. She said that discussion during the meeting dealt with the outcome of the information ministers' meeting, the Arab-African cooperation, and the moves of the Arab group during the current session of the UN General Assembly.

Mrs Layla Sharaf is due to start tomorrow a 6-day official visit to Tunisia.

Prime Minister Comments on Chamber Elections

NC161403 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1225 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The elected Chamber speaker, Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Rashid Karami, and all of those associated with the Chamber paid the traditional visit to the presidential palace in Ba'bda today.

Speaker al-Husayni later visited the residence of His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Karami made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Karami] The elections which were held today at the Chamber of Deputies and the victory of Husayn al-Husayni as speaker show that our regime is in good shape. We are proud of our democracy, because it is the principal objective of the Lebanese people and homeland. The elections have proved that the Chamber of Deputies will continue to assume its responsibilities and duties to the best of its ability.

The country is currently passing through difficult circumstances which dictate that we unify our ranks and stands so that the various government bodies may coordinate efforts in service of this homeland.

Hence the strength of this country vis-a-vis the dangers which face it. Liberation, security, reforms, and reconstruction are all responsibilities that must be assumed by everyone. The esteemed Chamber of Deputies is requested to work, to control, and to guide. The government is in full solidarity with regard to all matters with the respectable deputies.

Now that we are waging battles to liberate the south, Al-Biqa', and Rashayya, we will take all stands that are necessary to preserve Lebanon's unity and the people's dignity, security, and tranquillity. We convey our heartfelt congratulations to Husayn al-Husayni and all the respectable deputies, hoping that this new election will achieve the citizens' hopes: security and tranquillity. May peace be upon you.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Karami] The Cabinet usually convenes on Wednesday. We will conduct contacts for the sake of ensuring the convocation of the session. I hope it will be in Bikfayya if the weather permits.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Karami] Israel's withdrawal from the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya is our main and principal objective. We must agree on the ways that will attain this objective. We are still holding contacts to straighten up matters before moving to the next phase.

[Unidentified reporter] With whom are you holding these contacts?

[Karami] With the United Nations. [end recording]

Government Source: 17 Oct Cabinet Session Postponed

NC161921 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] A government source disclosed this evening that the Cabinet session scheduled for tomorrow has been postponed. The date of the session will be set upon conclusion of the ongoing contacts on reforms.

Franjiyah Favors Broadening UNIFIL Role

NC161225 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] At his weekly news conference he held before noon today, [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah congratulated his excellency the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Husayn al-Husayni, as well as the deputy speaker, Munir Abu Fadil, and the staff members of the chamber. President Franjiyah said: I congratulate the Chamber of Deputies on having been able to hold this election in a democratic atmosphere. He also lauded the stances of the new speaker and his deputy on the 17 May agreement — stances rejecting this agreement. President Franjiyah added: One reaps what one sows.

President Franjiyah wished success for the speaker, the deputy speaker, and the Chamber staff members in achieving things that will be to the benefit of democracy and Lebanon.

During his weekly news conference, President Sulayman Franjiyah spoke of various matters on the Lebanese scene. He called for broadening the responsibilities of UNIFIL in the south and for increasing the number of UNIFIL men so that, acting alongside the legitimate Lebanese Army, UNIFIL will be able to fill the security vacuum, to repress all violations perpetrated in UNIFIL areas of operations, and to protect the border.

President Sulayman Franjiyah noted the international circumstances that are now favorable for responding to such a demand [for increasing the UNIFIL presence]. He added that, if the Lebanese Government wants to be rid of Jewish crimes and agents, then it is imperative that the Lebanese Government approach the Security Council as soon as possible, demanding that the Council empower UNIFIL with the responsibilities I have noted.

Al-Husayni Addresses Chamber of Deputies

NC161622 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Address delivered by newly elected Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni at the Chamber of Deputies in Beirut on 16 October — recorded]

[Excerpts] Honorable colleagues: First, I would like to thank you for the confidence your respected Chamber has entrusted to me.

Colleagues, we are not alone in this world. We live in a world that is dominated by conflict and power. Some of us may view the

results of this truth with bitterness, in view of the destruction and catastrophes that have befallen our country, the result of conflict predicated upon the covetous designs of others. However, we cannot entirely ignore our own responsibility for what has befallen us, nor may we forget our allegiance to a small homeland whose only bastion is this very allegiance.

We are not alone in this world. Thus, Lebanon must be open to the world, not isolated. The real Lebanon must be affiliated within the Arab arena, carrying out its duties, safeguarding its rights, and performing its mission among its Arab brothers for the sake of Arab culture and in an effort to promote this culture in today's world and in the future.

The hand of evil has touched our country several times. We should have expected this to happen in a world that is dominated by conflicts, in a particularly explosive area, and in proximity to an aggressive and expansionist state: Israel. Israel now occupies our south, part of Al-Biqa', and is engaged in the ugliest manifestations of occupation in our territory. Israel is seeking to destroy our unity and to make the Lebanese homeland a cauldron of conflicting sectarian entities in order to ensure its own existence.

We are not alone in this world. The hand of evil has touched our country several times, but the hand of good has also touched us several times. Instead of collecting our intrinsic power, uniting, and taking advantage of our opportunity, we used to be indifferent and divided. Thus, we missed our opportunity, the occupation of our country expanded, and our leaders grew weaker by the day. We now have a new opportunity before us — the opportunity to liberate our territory, to rebuild the state, to consolidate the rule of law, to unite our people, and to establish security in our homeland.

Syria plans an effective role in establishing the conditions necessary to permit us to benefit from this opportunity. We are entitled to this and it is Syria's duty to spare no effort in offering aid and support to the Lebanese Government and people. Beyond our close fraternal ties and joint interests, which cannot be denied, the safeguarding of Lebanon is an Arab responsibility. Fraternal Syria is the first to realize the importance of this. [transmission is interrupted for 20 seconds; announcer notes that it is due to a "power failure"]

We must not allow our internal differences and our narrow interests to prevent us from differentiating between our enemies and our friends. Perhaps we will realize, this time, that any aid we receive from Syria, or from any other fraternal or friendly country, will be futile unless we act in a united and undivided way to make use of it.

Colleagues, the duty of defending the existence of Lebanon and of the Lebanese, the duty of liberating our land and of reforming our institutions so that they can survive and secure the aspirations and hopes of the Lebanese, eliminating the Lebanese people's fears and safeguarding their rights and sources of livelihood, requires that the Chamber of Deputies play its role in full. The Chamber is responsible for developing and deepening its constitutional functions to meet the country's need for legislation and the state's need for reconstruction. The Chamber has the responsibility of supporting the brave resistance against the Israeli occupation in the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya, and the responsibility of seeking the liberation of our land, both at home and by working with the fraternal Arabs and the world.

Munir Abu Fadil Elected Deputy Speaker

NC161308 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Munir Abu Fadil has been elected deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies by a majority of 53 votes. There were 14 blank votes and one naming Deputy Michel Sasin, who had withdrawn in favor of Abu Fadil.

Deputies Tariq Habshi and Salih al-Khayr were elected secretaries. Deputies Subhi Yagi, Ra'if Samarah, and Melkon Ebligatyan were elected commissioners in the Chamber of Deputies Office.

Reportage on Security Situation in Mountain

RFL Notes 'Raging' Clashes

NC161455 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Clashes involving 106-mm guns, mortars, and rockets have been raging since 1600 on the combat lines of 'Aytat, Suq al-Gharb, Qurs al-Mudawwar, and 'Alayh between the Lebanese Army on one hand and Junblatt's gunmen and their allies on the other.

Palestinians Fire on Army

NC161542 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] We have just been informed that the ongoing clashes in the mountain areas have become violent. The Lebanese Army is now receiving fire from 'Aytat, Shamlan, and 'Nub. The fire is originating from socialist and Palestinian positions.

Shelling Noted in Mountain

NC161444 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The combat lines in 'Alayh, Tallat al-Prince, Al-Khazzanat, and 'Aytat-Suq al-Gharb have been the scenes of exchanges of fire since 1530 today. A French observer has reported that three shells were fired on 'Alayh from the Bdadun area.

At 1540, a cease-fire agreement was reached; however, though the Progressive Socialist Party adhered to the cease-fire, the mortar shells continued to fall — thus, the Al-Karamah road was closed temporarily.

At 1545, the Phalangist militias set up a roadblock in the Baydun Mosque-Sodeco area.

Junblattists Violate Cease-fire Agreements

NC162024 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] As usual, and always before Cabinet sessions, the Junblattists have again ignited the security situation by directing bursts of gunfire from their positions in 'Aytat, 'Aynat, Shamlan, Baysur, and 'Alyah toward the Lebanese Army's positions in Suq al-Gharb and some residential areas in Al-Kahhalah, 'Arayya, Jumhur, and Bsus.

Four cease-fire agreements were reached, but all were violated by the Junblattists. This prompted the Lebanese Army to return fire and silence the sources of the socialist and Palestinian attack.

Intermittent attacks on Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb were still taking place when this report was prepared.

Al-Nabatiyah Deputy Military Governor Attacked

NC171250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] It was reported a short while ago that Major Salih, the deputy military governor of Al-Nabatiyah, was the object of an assassination attempt at dawn today when gunmen ambushed his car with heavy gunfire. The Jarju' area, where the incident occurred, is still sealed off.

VOL on Expected Security Arrangements Talks

NC170727 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] A Lebanese source has said that Lebanon's agreement to the proposal by UNIFIL Commander General Callaghan to hold Lebanese-Israeli negotiations regarding security arrangements is conditional on the negotiations being held within the framework of the armistice commission.

The source said that the UN Security Council has requested that the UN secretary general hold talks for reviving the armistice commission. Some sources expect the talks to begin within 1 week.

VOAL Reports Israeli Reinforcements in Al-Biqa'

NC170632 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Guarded calm prevails on the Al-Biqa' front as a result of the continuing Israeli reinforcements along the contact lines there.

Dozens of tanks and armored personnel carriers have been spotted taking up positions along the vantage points on the combat lines of Kafr Quq and (Khirbit Druha), which face Al-Masna' and Shtawrah.

President Al-Asad Visit to USSR Discussed

West 'Closely Watching' Visit

JN161338 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Syria's militant stands against and challenges to plans aimed at liquidating the central Arab cause have increased the United States' concern for its plans, alliances, and strategy aimed at obliterating Arab rights and besieging the forces of liberation and socialism. This is why Western observers are closely watching struggler President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the friendly USSR. U.S. diplomacy, which has sought to create a regional security alliance to back up the NATO pact, depends on those Arab regimes used to linking themselves with the United States rather than with the Arab nation. That rancorous diplomacy has assumed the dimensions of a declared conspiracy and prompts preparation for a collective military action to shed Arab blood and threaten Syria and the Lebanese people in an attempt to take revenge for the United States' defeats and rally support for Camp David and its new adherent parties in Amman, Baghdad, and the capitulatory renegade regimes. Syria, which is committed to militant principles and the entrenched pan-Arab ideology, will not be alone in confornting the regional security alliance. Moreover, its stands will not be subject to compromise or blackmail, even if new pressures assume dimensions that contradict all international efforts to keep the Middle East and the world away from war.

Now, after the United States has assigned to its reserves in Egypt, Israel, and Jordan the role of imposing the U.S. decision on the Arab region, military confrontation has become more probable. It is clear that force and aggression are the only balance for the joint Israeli-U.S. diplomacy.

Egyptian officials have not concealed their plans for the coming stage. They announced that a military alliance will emerge, and that Amman is an important axis in this new alliance. The Zionist generals' statements reaffirmed that Jordanian weapons serve Israel and do not act against it, that the Jordanian regime has left the Arab arena of confrontation completely, and that the Jordanian regime's hostility to Syria and the Palestinian people is the basis for Amman's political strategy. Thus, the U.S. moves, crowned by reactivating Camp David and adopting Peres' plan, and which coincided with the U.S. military siege of the Arab world, must lead to premeditated aggression, something the Israeli and U.S. circles have been talking about for a long time. Syria will be the target of this aggression, and southern Lebanon one of its major fields.

We in Syria do not deny the U.S. ability to hatch plots. We also realize that Jordan and the renegade regimes sympathize with and support the U.S. plans. We also know that Israel possesses very sophisticated weapons. However, we are aware of the requirements of this stage and realize who our enemies are. Moreover, we possess the ability to reply effectively. Just as the United States is for Israel, Syria has its sincere friends, who firmly support the Arab struggle for liberation. Just as the defeatist and renegade regimes stand at the side of the United States, the Arab nation's masses support Syria and stand at its side. Because the aggressive plan is aimed at the forces of liberation and socialism, the Israeli-U.S. alliance will not be the only side to determine the region's future. This is what prompts the imperialist-Zionist circles to follow struggler President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Moscow with extreme concern, especially since it is in reply to U.S. moves and provocation, and so long as Syria represents the peoples' major trench of confronting the aggressors and foiling their plans of hegemony and control.

AL-BA'TH, TISHRIN Views

JN160935 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Today's papers highlight President Hafiz al-Asad's important visit to Moscow and his talks with Soviet leaders. *AL-BA'TH* says: President Hafiz al-Asad's current visit to the USSR is particularly significant. To observers and news media circles, East and West, the visit is a major event for several reasons, mainly that President al-Asad is recognized by everyone as a prominent figure in the sphere of international politics concerning the Middle East and the developing countries, and a symbol of courage and wisdom by his firm and resolute handling of national and international affairs. All this gives President al-Asad a final say on many outstanding international crises and problems inside and outside the region. President al-Asad has emerged as the leader of a sprawling nation going through difficult and complicated circumstances.

The paper adds: Syrian-Soviet relations have become a distinct, and perhaps even unique, model in international relations in view of their rapid progress and development on the firm bases of friendship and mutual respect as well as their efficacy in withstanding many tests in the political and economic fields, and in the common effort for victory in the cause of peace, freedom, and progress. The circumstances prevailing in the region, beginning with the Lebanese crisis and its side-effects, and ending with Washington's crooked way in winning over some Arab capitals in its effort to give new momentum to the Camp David accords to liquidate the Arab cause, the Palestine question in particular, call on the Syrian and Soviet leaders to pause and examine the issues. They must do so in light of their common effort and stands on many of these issues so as to arrive at a common view of the next phase some people say will be hot and full of surprises, especially after the recent Zionist elections and the coming U.S. elections.

All these circumstances, and many others, make President Al-Asad's present visit to Moscow the main event, closely monitored and followed by political and media circles in many capitals. All this gives the visit special significance at this particular time and in the present complicated circumstances witnessed by the region and portends many serious explosions.

AL-BA'TH concludes: If President al-Asad's previous meetings with the comrades in the Soviet leadership were successful, due to both the level of bilateral relations and the common view on many important international issues, the current visit will

further promote and consolidate this success and help entrench Syrian-Soviet friendship as a distinct model in international relations. This is especially true after recent events and experiences in which friendship and cooperation between Damascus and Moscow proved their feasibility and the bilateral friendship treaty proved its efficacy and achieved for them a great deal of what was wished for them by nations that defend the cause of freedom and seek just peace and make sacrifices for the sake of peace.

Commenting in its "Behind the News" column, *TISHRIN* says: Revolutionary Syria, which has adhered to the principle of pan-Arab struggle in defense of the Arab nation's issues, including the liberation of usurped Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's rights on the basis of UN resolutions, wants to strengthen and consolidate its relations with the socialist bloc countries headed by the USSR and all the progressive, peace-loving peoples in the world. Syria, which appreciates the friendly USSR's stands in assisting and supporting our nation's issues and just struggle and in backing confrontation against the plans of U.S. hegemony and continued Zionist expansion and aggression, today wants to make the Syrian-Soviet relations of friendship and cooperation more comprehensive and stronger by developing them and moving them to more advanced and abundantly fruitful phases for the sake of common efforts to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

AL-THAWRAH Calls Talks 'Successful'

JN170657 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 17 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "An Important Visit and Successful Talks," *AL-THAWRAH* says: The Syrian-Soviet summit talks between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Konstantin Chernenko have asserted the existing strong and firm relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR. Both sides are waging a common struggle against the imperialist and Zionist forces and their hostile, expansionist plans in the Middle East. This was projected in the round of talks held in Moscow yesterday between Presidents al-Asad and Chernenko. These talks were very successful and viewpoints were in agreement on all topics discussed.

AL-THAWRAH continues: The USSR affirmed its assistance and support for Syria's national [al-wataniyah] policy and firm line in defending itself and confronting imperialist and Israeli plans. This assertion acquires special significance in the circumstances currently prevailing in the region when the imperialist-Zionist aggression against the Arab liberation movement is intensifying and when Washington and Tel Aviv are trying to enforce separate deals and capitulationist solutions on the Arabs. It is from this angle that we view the great importance of President al-Asad's visit to the USSR and the great results which will emerge from this visit in strengthening and deepening the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR and also in foiling imperialist and Zionist plans that seek to disrupt the efforts for just comprehensive peace and enforce U.S.-Israeli hegemony on the region.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: These results are bound to have a positive effect on the Arab liberation struggle led by Syria against the hostile forces' attempts to foil capitulationist plots and plans being hatched against the Arab nation and its progressive, nationalist forces with the direct full support of U.S. imperialism and Israel.

Anti-Jordanian Front Formed in Damascus

JN161507 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Damascus, 16 Oct (SANA) — The national Jordanian movement and the armed Palestinian revolution factions have described Jordan's decision to restore political and diplomatic relations with the Egyptian regime as blatant, national treason and capitulation to the Zionist enemy. In a statement issued here today, the national Jordanian movement and the Palestinian revolution factions asserted that the agent regime in Jordan is trying, through 'Arafat's treasonous leadership, to disguise its moves and measures aimed at turning Jordan into a main base of reactionary, imperialist, and Zionist schemes in the Arab homeland, thus liquidating the Jordanian-Palestinian national struggle and forming a reactionary alliance, constituting another bridgehead, to surround and strike at Arab liberation movement factions and forces and their national regimes.

Concluding, the statement notes that the national Jordanian movement and the armed Palestinian revolution factions agreed, after a number of meetings, to form a broad national front to unite and lead national Jordanian struggle and to topple the royal Jordanian regime. The national front is currently drafting a political statement in this regard prior to approval of its final version.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Message From Iran's Rafsanjani

JN161556 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, 16 Oct (SANA) — People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi received here today (Sa'd Hoseyn Niknam), the Iranian charge d'affaires in Damascus. The Iranian charge d'affaires conveyed to Al-Zu'bi a message from Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani on current issues in the region. During the talks, (Niknam) praised Syria's distinguished role and its confrontation of imperialism and Zionism and their hositile schemes in the region. He asserted that relations between Syria and Iran will continue to develop and strengthen.

Al-Zu'bi praised Iran's role in support of Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian cause and Iran's confrontation of Zionist schemes.

Chief of Staff Addresses Air Force Graduates

JN170935 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0818 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, 17 Oct (SANA) — General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, has affirmed that Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, will not bow, but remain a solid bastion in the pan-Arab struggle against reaction, imperialism, and Zionism.

Addressing a new class of pilots, technicians, and navigators, Gen al-Shihabi reviewed Syria's struggle role in resisting capitulationist trends and liquidatory solutions.

He also referred to the conspiratorial plans that have emerged following the Jordanian regime's treasonous move to restore diplomatic and political ties with the Camp David regime in Egypt and the subsequent suspect meetings between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat and Husni Mubarak, a move welcomed and blessed by Saddam Husayn's regime and King Hassan of Morocco, who quickly called for the convocation of an Arab conference to end the isolation of Mubarak's regime and to generalize the Camp David line.

Addressing the graduates, Gen al-Shihabi said: Our homeland is currently passing through an extremely delicate and complicated phase that calls upon you to continue training in the use of arms and achieve a high level of fighting capability.

Concluding his address, the chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces affirmed that the Syrian Air Force and Air Defense Force are today stronger than at any time before, thanks to the efforts being exerted by the command and President Hafiz al-Asad to achieve a strategic balance with the Zionist enemy.

Weinberger Talks Focus on Aid, Withdrawal

TA161839 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT Oct 84

[Excerpts] Visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger plans to give positive answers to some of Israel's requests when he ends his trip here tomorrow. The Voice of Israel's military reporter says Weinberger will agree to let Israel spend more American military aid money on development of the Lavi fighter plane, that the United States will buy Israeli services for its troops abroad, and will buy Israeli weapons. More from reporter Tony Gadot, in Tel Aviv:

Secretary Weinberger was welcomed at the Ministry of Defense this morning with a full military ceremony, before he and Defense Minister Rabin sat down to 20 minutes of confidential talk. The two were then joined by their advisers and the Americans received briefings by the head of Military Intelligence and other top-ranking IDF and Defense Ministry staff. Much of this morning's 2-hour meeting centered on U.S. economic aid to Israel and how it affects the defense establishment. Rabin told the visitors that although cuts in the ministry will lead to a quantitative cut in the Armed Forces, the readiness of the IDF to deal with any external threat will not be affected. He said that although the Army will be reduced in manpower, its quality as a fighting force will be improved. Rabin said that Israel is proud of the fact that it has no mutual defense agreements with other countries and that the defense forces are able to counter any threat to the country's security without involving friendly foreign nations.

Weinberger Approves Requests

TA170644 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has approved all those defense establishment requests which he is authorized to approve. Our military correspondent explains that reference is to U.S. purchases in Israel totalling approximately $200 million annually, and maybe even more. The purchase of Israeli weapons, mainly mortars, was also approved. Items which Weinberger is not authorized to approve will be forwarded immediately for the approval of a committee in Washington.

Issues Statement

TA170939 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger says that the United States will release to Israel the advanced technology needed to carry out the third phase of the Lavi aircraft project. At the conclusion of his talks with the prime minister and the defense minister, he also said that joint U.S.- Israeli work teams were formed to study Israel's procurement requirements, including the submarines which Israel has requested the United States manufacture for us. Caspar Weinberger added that the offset procurement plan will continue, according to which the United States will buy products from the Israeli Defense establishment equalling up to $100 million as early as the first quarter of 1985.

Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Weinberger conferred with the prime minister this morning on the issues of Lebanon and Jordan as well. He said that he received the impression that Israel intends to withdraw from Lebanon once security arrangements are reached, and that he found a positive and serious attitude in everything concerning the Israeli efforts to make peace with Jordan.

Hears Terms of Withdrawal

TA171107 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The prime minister, the defense minister, and the foreign minister have worked out an Israeli position on a Lebanon agreement, which in fact rejects a unilateral withdrawal and makes the IDF's withdrawal conditional, among other things, on the continued existence of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] and the deployment of UNIFIL on lines opposite the Syrians. Our correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports from the prime minister's office:

In talks held last night and this morning between Prime Minister Peres and Vice Prime Minister Shamir, together with Defense Minister Rabin, an Israeli position on an agreement for Lebanon was reached. It was presented this morning before Defense Secretary Weinberger. The prime minister, who presented the position, said that Israel will not compromise on the security arrangements it wants to obtain as a precondition for its withdrawal.

Those conditions are: a Syrian pledge not to expand the Syrian deployment and control to areas the IDF will evacuate in Lebanon; a commitment by Damascus to prevent terrorist penetrations against Israel from areas under its control; the continued existence of the ASL under General Lahd, and its deployment in the southern strip of southern Lebanon bordering on Israel; and the fourth condition — the deployment of UNIFIL units north of the area that will be under the ASL's control, from the Mediterranean in the west to the Syrian deployment lines in the Al-Biqa' area.

According to the official communique issued by the prime minister's office, the prime minister added that Israel is seeking the good offices of the United States in obtaining an arrangement to make possible the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon.

Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said at the meeting with Weinberger that the Syrians must understand that Israel will not withdraw from Lebanon without security arrangements.

Sources at the prime minister's office said after the publication of the statement, the gist of which we have just reported to you, that if Israel is patient, it will be possible to reach an arrangement within a reasonable period of time, estimated to be months.

However, judging by the communique itself, and by statements made after it was published, the proposal raised by the prime minister on a unilateral Israeli withdrawal is clearly not topical at the moment.

More Details of Withdrawal Plan

TA171151 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1115 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Talk show with political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and anchorman 'Oded Ben-'Ami]

[Text][Ben-'Ami] It was reported from the prime minister's office at the end of meetings with U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger — and this may have prompted developments — that Israel has no intention of compromising on the security arrangements required for the northern border as a precondition for withdrawing the IDF from southern Lebanon.

[Schiffer] Perhaps, with a trace of a smile on our faces, we could say that it is a good thing that Weinberger visited the prime minister's office this morning, as this allowed the prime minister, the defense minister, and the foreign minister to confer and decide on a policy regarding what is happening, or what may happen, in Lebanon, and in policy toward Lebanon. The statement issued by the prime minister's office, for which correspondents were invited, is actually the final position on Lebanon. It might be worth our while to read the statement, and then refer to it.

The communique issued by the prime minister's office says that in his meeting with Weinberger today, the prime minister detailed at great length Israel's positions on Lebanon. He emphasized that Israel is adamant in its desire to bring about effective and lasting security arrangements that will allow the IDF to return home quickly, while ensuring the security of the northern settlements. Israel has no intention of compromising on these security arrangements, and it believes that it is possible to implement them within a reasonable period of time.

The prime minister explained that the framework for the agreement in Lebanon involves military and political components: a political understanding with the Syrians and a military agreement with the Lebanese. The balance and combination between the two — the communique says — are an absolute necessity in light of Israel's conditions, which are as follows: first, a Syrian commitment not to expand its deployment to areas evacuated by the IDF; a Syrian commitment to prevent penetrations for the purpose of carrying out terrorist activity from areas under the Syrian Army's control; the continued existence of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] under General Antoine Lahd; and its deployment in the southern area adjacent to the Israeli border. Another condition presented by Israel is that UNIFIL units deploy in the strip north of the one occupied by the ASL, stretching from the Mediterranean in the west to the Syrian deployment lines in the east.

The announcement by the prime minister's office also says that Israel will welcome the good offices of the United States in mediating between the parties to reach the desired arrangement, in the best tradition of U.S. activity to reduce tension and make peace in our region.

That was the announcement by the prime minister's office. We have already learned that this morning, in the meeting with Weinberger, Vice Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Rabin expressed themselves in the same spirit — namely that Israel has no intention of automatically leaving Lebanon, and that this requires early negotiations. Rabin, of course, talked about the two levels of negotiations for a political agreement with Syria and a military agreement with Lebanon.

It is necessary to emphasize once again that this is actually a repetition of statements the prime minister actually made a few days ago, and which his spokesmen emphasized, regarding a readiness for a unilateral withdrawal from the western sector of Lebanon. After leaks from various offices, this announcement was made and actually rectified the situation, and Israel is adamant on the things we mentioned. I can only add perhaps one sentence: It was possible to hear political sources already this afternoon saying that if Israel has patience — as they put it — it will achieve everything it wants. Here, as one who reviews this political sphere, I might say that this term of "waiting patiently" was made as early as in the days of Ari'el Sharon, when he was defense minister, and we also heard from former Defense Minister Moshe Arens — that is, that throughout these long months from June 1982 through October 1983, and now October 1984, there has been talk about "being patient" so that the Israeli presence in Lebanon will have been worth it. Perhaps the only difference between this and earlier statements is that the Cabinet will soon discuss policy in Lebanon.

[Ben-'Ami] So the declaration that a decision on withdrawal will be made in 3 weeks was a bit premature and only a debate might be held within 3 weeks?

[Schiffer] Here the prime minister's office has corrected us by saying that the prime minister only talked about the debate, but certainly did not talk about withdrawal; and that even in the best of circumstances if some sort of arrangement is reached, the IDF will still spend this winter in Lebanon.

[Ben-'Ami] Since you are bringing us corrections and clarifications from the prime minister's office, perhaps I could ask you, Shim'on, to correct or clarify statements we heard here Sunday on the moratorium that Shim'on Peres may have obtained to defer Israel's repayment of debts to the U.S.

[Schiffer] Indeed, in light of denials issued by Washington and U.S. sources, one could glean clarifications from the prime minister's office over the past 24 hours or perhaps before that. Let us say that leaking the report on the possibility that Israel's debts might be written off was undoubtedly damaging and led to all parties involved now distancing themselves from this business. In today's clarifications, we could hear that in Israel, too, experts from both the Bank of Israel and the Treasury are divided over whether Israel should request this at all. What we were told was that this matter, namely the possibility of deferring repayment of debts or a moratorium, was raised as a possibility by the Americans, and there is as yet no decision or conclusion on the matter. The Finance Ministry's accountant will go to the United States on this, and the prime minister has requested papers both from the Bank of Israel and the Treasury on what Israel should demand in connection with the next 90 days, realizing that this possibility — that Israel can now put off repayment of its debts of $500 million to the U.S. Administration — exists. The decision is now awaited.

Lebanon Said To Agree to UN-Sponsored Talks

TA171220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Two Lebanese newspapers report that the government there has agreed to hold talks under UN auspices on security arrangements for south Lebanon in the event of an Israeli withdrawal. Quoting Lebanese military sources, the Beirut papers *AL-NAHAR* and *AL-SAFIR* say such talks would be within the framework of a joint armistice commission between Israel and Lebanon.

Talks Could Begin Next Week

TA171330 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Lebanon is prepared to conduct military negotiations with Israel on security arrangements to enable the IDF's withdrawal from southern Lebanon under the auspices of the United Nations. This was stated by a senior political source in Beirut.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that according to the report from Beirut, talks between Lebanese Army and IDF officers may begin as early as next week. The talks will take place at UNIFIL headquarters in Al-Naqurah in the framework of the Armistice Committee that was established after the War of Independence. The last time this committee held a session was 4 years ago.

UNIFIL Commander General Callaghan conferred with the Lebanese chief of staff last night and with Israel's Chief of Staff Moshe Levi the previous day. Military sources in Beirut report that Callaghan conveyed Israel's consent to hold the above-mentioned talks in Beirut. Callaghan will now conduct a shuttle mission between Beirut and Jerusalem in order to finalize the arrangements for the negotiations.

U.S. Said To Promise 90-Day Debt Moratorium

TA161621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] U.S. sources said this afternoon that U.S. emergency aid will be given to Israel if there is a serious economic crisis. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that these sources stressed that the U.S. Administration had promised Shim'on Peres to help Israel prevent such a crisis. At the same time, they emphasized that during the visit there was no mention at all about cancelling Israel's debts, but that the prime minister was only promised a 90-day moratorium on the debts.

The prime minister's political adviser, Nimrod Novik, has said that there are differences of opinion within the Israeli Government as to whether it should be satisfied with a postponement of the debt or whether it should seek the complete cancellation of it. *THE WASHINGTON POST* quoted the adviser, who said this was a question of postponing debts for 3 months, after which the new Congress would have to debate whether to approve another postponement and whether this would be on the condition that the Israeli Government requests it.

Write-off Believed Possible

TA170623 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] A top Treasury official, Arye Sher, flies to Washington next week to put the final touches on the agreements reached during the talks there last week by Prime Minister Peres; the main points — the delay in repayment of loans to the United States.

Officials told Qol Yisra'el's [Voice of Israel] economic reporter that despite denials from Washington, they believe it will be possible to eliminate the debt by writing it off against aid in the same amount. They add it appears the Americans prefer not to make public statements about this; instead, waiting to see if it would be possible.

Moda'i: Rescheduling Under Way

TA170703 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
17 Oct 84 p 2

[Wolf Blitzer report from Washington]

[Excerpt] Officials in Jerusalem, including Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, were quoted as saying that Israel had already decided on a re-scheduling of the debt payments. "The prime minister accepted right away," Moda'i reportedly said. "So we have now a deferment."

But Israeli officials in Washington, based on information from the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, yesterday flatly denied that the Cabinet had already decided to implement any re-scheduling arrangement. They have been embarrassed by the widespread confusion which has surfaced since Israel radio reported Monday a "moratorium" on debt payment.

Economic Committee Meets; No Decisions

TA161848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs today held a 2 and 1/2 hour discussion without making any major economic decisions. Most ministers voiced disappointment at the Treasury for not presenting any overall program. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said afterward he had not expressed a view, suggesting that reporters ask those who understand the economy to declare if they have a plan. Minister Moshe Arens, who requested the meeting, proposed linking wages to the dollar.

Reporter Harley Braidman asked Science Minister Gid'on Pat about his proposal:

[Begin recording] [Pat] I have submitted today my 27 points to the minister of finance and to most of the members of the committee. I think that in the beginning of next week the committee will continue the discussions which started today, at the request of Minister Arens.

[Braidman] Do you think we'll have a package deal at the end of it?

[Pat] I don't see the solution in just a package deal. I think that the needed elements for a package deal are not ready yet. When they will be ready, there will be no question that all parties to a package deal will be very happy to join, but just to force a package deal, without preparing in advance the needed elements for such a deal is not a very wise thing to do. [end recording]

The ministerial committee decided to set up a public committee headed by Yehezqel Frumin to examine setting up a free trade area in Elat. The committee also decided to replace by legislation the emergency regulations on the 15 percent levy on import services.

Military Sources Deny Intercepting Iraqi Ship

TA161822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1810 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Israeli military sources deny an Iraqi claim that an Israeli naval patrol intercepted one of its ships Sunday and opened fire on it in Jordanian territorial waters. The Iraqis claim the ship was on its way to the port of Aqaba when it was intercepted. The Iraqis claim the Israeli patrol asked the ship captian to identify his cargo, but the captain refused, saying he was in Jordanian territorial waters. Then the Israeli patrol opened fire, according to the Iraqi report. It did not say if there were any injuries or damage. Iraq says it has protested to the UN secretary general, but Israeli miliatry sources say there was no such incident.

Warning Issued to National Guidance Committee

TA161142 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Oct 84 p 3

[Pinhas 'Inbari report]

[Excerpt] The military government last night summoned several former members of the National Guidance Committee and warned them in writing against resuming the committee's activities. The men summoned included Bashir Baghruti, the editor-in-chief of the Communist magazine *AL-TALI'AH*; Ma'mun al-Sid, a journalist from Ramallah; and Wahid Kamal Hamdallah, the deposed mayor of 'Anabta. Akram Haniyah, one of the editors of *AL-SHA'B*, was summoned to appear today, apparently for the same purpose.

The military government warned the men that the National Guidance Committee had been outlawed. The acting director of the Civilian Administration, Colonel Freddie Zakh, will today call on the municipality of Ya'bud, which had until recently persisted in boycotting the Civilian Administration.

Our correspondent has also learned that the position emerging from Civilian Administration debates on Al-Najah University is that it should not be reopened in the near future. However, the Cabinet will have to make a decision on the matter.

Assassination Attempt in South Lebanon Fails

TA161354 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1350 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] There has been an assassination attempt in southern Lebanon. At noon small arms fire was directed at the car of the commander of the civil guards in the village of Haruf. Two of the commander's guards were wounded, but he himself was not hurt.

Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, points out that this is the second time within less than 24 hours that there has been an attempt to attack the civil guards soldiers in southern Lebanon. This is an organization connected with the army of southern Lebanon and is, therefore, not especially loved by the terrorist organizations.

Lebanese Forces Commander Seeks Balanced Relations

TA161944 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The new commander of the Christian Lebanese Forces, Fu'ad Abu Nadir, in recent contacts has promised Israel that there will be no change in his militia's relations with Israel.

Our correspondent on Arab affairs reports that Abu Nadir has already ordered activity at the representation in Jerusalem to continue, and stressed that he will demand that President al-Jumayyil maintain balanced relations with both Jerusalem and Damascus.

Briefs

Ministerial Appointments — The Defense Ministry spokesman announces that Mr Tzvi Ben-Moshe has been named to the post of the defense minister's assistant on settlement matters, replacing Mr Uri Bar-On, who served in the post for the past three years. Mr Bar-On has been named as the trade and industry minister's assistant for development areas. [Text] [*Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 15 Oct 84 TA*]

New Kibbutz on Golan Heights — A new kibbutz, named Qela' Golan, belonging to the United Kibbutz Movement was established on the Golan Heights today. The kibbutz currently has 36 members and more are expected to join it later. [Summary] [*Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1635 GMT 16 Oct 84 TA*]

LIBYA

Tripoli Condemns Weinberger Middle East Tour

LD161143 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The U.S. defense secretary, Caspar Weinberger, arrived in the Egyptian capital yesterday within the framework of a tour of a number of the area countries. Tunisia was his first stop. At the end of his talks with Egyptian officials, dealing with bolstering military relations between the two countries, Weinberger will leave for occupied Palestine.

There are several American military bases in Egypt such as Ra's Banas on the Red Sea, considered to be one of the central positions of the American Rapid Deployment Force. Furthermore, the Arab Egyptian territories are annually used by American forces for staging military manouvers.

The American defense secretary's visit to the Arab region comes at a time when intensive contacts are taking place among the reactionary Arab countries following the Jordanian regime's resumption of relations with the Egyptian regime, with a view to achieving what has been called a settlement of the Middle East problem, which actually means recognition of the Zionist enemy and its alleged historic right to Palestine.

On the other hand, the ruler of Sudan, Ja'far Numayri, also arrived in the vanquished Egyptian capital on the same day as Weinberger. Political observers feel that this timing is not coincidental and that Numayri has arranged his visit at this time to hold talks with the American defense secretary in his efforts to secure more American aid after the Sudanese Government forces lost control of the southern parts of the country as a result of the successful attacks by the Sudanese People's Army for the Liberation of Sudan. It has inflicted heavy losses in life and hardware on the government forces.

It is noted that the American defense secretary's visit to the Arab region has been denounced by various national and revolutionary forces in Arab countries. In Tunisia, Bachir Essid, the secretary general of the Arab National Rally has denounced Weinberger's tour. He said in a statement that there is no benefit for Tunisia from bolstering special relations of a military nature with a country like American renowned for its opposition to Arab causes and for its organic alliance with the Zionist enemy.

Tripoli Notes Attempt on Thatcher's Life

LD161953 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 16 Oct 84

[From the "Behind the Events" program]

[Text] The bold operation of blowing up the Grand Hotel in Brighton occupied by Margaret Thatcher and a number of members of the government — for which the Irish revolutionaries declared responsibility — is still echoing inside and outside Britain on a wide scale.

This is because it is one of the biggest operations undertaken by the Irish revolutionaries. A few years ago, the Irish revolutionaries carried out another similar bold operation when they blew up the yacht of Mountbatten. He was killed instantly during a visit to Northern Ireland.

This latest operation has proven that the Irish revolutionaries are capable of reaching the stronghold of the British Government itself and dealing severe blows to it.

Political observers link this bold operation against the life of Margaret Thatcher and members of the government and the tough, unjustified stand taken by Thatcher during the hunger strike by Irish political prisoner Bobby Sands and his colleagues. This led to the death of a number of them because of Margaret Thatcher's refusal to respond to their demands, which included treatment as political prisoners and not as criminals, in addition to improvement of conditions in these prisons. Thatcher announced at the time that she would not submit to the demands of the Irish revolutionary prisoners, even if they were all to die of hunger.

AFP: Oil Minister Reportedly Changes Posts

NC161850 Paris AFP in English 1819 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Paris, Oct 16 (AFP) — Libyan Oil Minister Kamal Hassan al-Maqhur, who reportedly resigned his post on October 12, has been named deputy secretary general of the Arab-African Union linking Libya and Morocco, informed diplomatic sources said here today. The Cyprus-based *MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY* has reported that Mr al-Maqhur, who is also acting president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), was believed to have tendered his resignation as Libyan oil minister October 12. The journal said he had been temporarily replaced by Secretary of State for Planning Fawzi al-Shakshuki.

In Rabat, sources today confirmed that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had designated Mr al-Maqhur to represent Libya in the union with Morocco. The alternating post of secretary general will be held by a Moroccan for the first two years of the merger.

MOROCCO

KUNA Predicts Replacement of Cooperation Minister

LD170838 Kuwait KUNA in English 1114 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Rabat, Oct 16 (KUNA) — The formation of a new government, as is the practice in the wake of parliamentary elections, does not seem to be in the offing, but one minister is likely to be replaced, a well-placed Moroccan source told KUNA Tuesday. The incumbent government would not be reshuffled before the end of the year, as the Royal Palace needed extra time to examine programs of parties referring to King Hassan II earlier in the month, the source told KUNA.

Cooperation Minister Abdelouahed Radi, a socialist, would be shortly replaced by a fellow socialist, as he was appointed by the king as secretary general of last August's Libyan-Moroccan

union, according to the source. He added that three of the country's six political parties are competing to form a new government. According to wide speculations in political circles, these parties are the Constitutional Unionist, the Popular Movement, and the National Gathering of Liberals.

In last month's parliamentary elections, parties loyal to the king swept their way to the top, with the lead going to the two-year-old Constitutional Unionist Party. The ruling Istiqlal Party, which made poor showing in the parliamentary elections, is expected to slip to the opposition side, the source said.

SUDAN

Numayri Discharged After Minor Surgery in Cairo

JN161111 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Oct (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri underwent surgery to remove a bone protrusion from his right foot at the Al-Ma'adi Hospital in Cairo yesterday. The surgery lasted for only a few minutes. President Numayri was admitted to the Al-Ma'adi Hospital at 1800 yesterday and was discharged at 1815 on the same day.

WESTERN SAHARA

Reportage on 'Great Maghreb Offensive'

AFP Notes 'Heavy Fighting'

NC161540 Paris AFP in English 1532 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Rabat, Oct 16 (AFP) — Heavy fighting has broken out between Moroccan troops and the Polisario independence movement in the disputed Western Sahara, statements from both sides said today. For the first time in nearly two years, the Moroccan Government has confirmed an outbreak of "violent and intense" combat between its troops and the Polisario, who regularly issue statements in Algiers reporting skirmishes in the Western Sahara.

A Polisario communique issued from Algeria Saturday announced that the movement had launched a major offensive aimed at destroying Moroccan defenses in the northeast of the phosphate-rich former Spanish colony.

An official Moroccan communique issued today spoke of "fierce fighting" on Saturday in an attack which it said was "prepared and carried out from Algerian territory."

The Moroccan statement put the death toll from the fighting at 37 Moroccan soldiers and 176 guerrillas. But the Algerian-backed Polisario Front said in its own communique today that its forces had killed 75 Moroccan troops, put 220 others out of action and captured 10. The Polisario statement said the attack had "destroyed the entire Moroccan military defense system" along a portion of the line of trenches and sand barriers built by Morocco last May near the town of Zag.

Observers said the Polisario offensive, launched just weeks before the next summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), appeared designed to show that the issue of independence for the Western Sahara had not been resolved, as claimed by Rabat. The Western Sahara issue has become a major source of internal strife in the OAU, which has come out in support of the Polisario Front, drawing opposition from Morocco and a number of conservative African members.

The new offensive has offered Morocco an opportunity to renew its attacks on neighbouring Algeria, which it has charged of harbouring and training "mercenaries" to fight the desert war. Last July, Rabat also accused Mauritania of allowing Polisario fighters to use its territory as a base for attacks on Moroccan positions.

While the latest attacks have yet to reach the level of fighting which characterized the Saharan conflict from 1977-1981, observers said the Polisario offensive was likely to worsen the already tense relations between Algiers and Rabat.

Algiers Reports More Attacks

LD161935 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Western Sahara — The Zag sector in Northwest Western Sahara is in flames. The inferno has been blazing for 3 days for the Moroccan troops since the Polisario unleashed an offensive called the Great Maghreb offensive.

In concrete terms, one part of the wall [protecting the useful triangle] has fallen. This is expressed in the destruction of the Moroccan military force between Smul Niran and (El Jachbi Sakhli). The Saharan troops also attacked six support positions of the 7th Motorized Infantry Brigade of the monarchist armed forces, which is on the Western flank of the Moroccan troops. The preliminary casualty count is 295 Moroccan troops killed or injured and 10 prisoners. The Saharans also hit all their logistic support: 4 fuel, ammunition, and supply depots were destroyed as well as two radars [not further specified], 13 armored vehicles, 17 transport vehicles, and 11 machineguns.

It must be said that the Moroccan troops are having a difficult time. The Great Maghreb operation has included, since 21 June, no fewer than 44 attacks, most of them being Saharan attacks of harrassment.

KENYA

Briefs

Envoy Meets Pakistan's Zia — Islamabad, Oct 15, (KNA) — Kenya's ambassador to Pakistan, Maj Gen Musomba, today presented his credentials to President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, General Ziaul Haq. During discussions, the president recalled Moi's visit to Pakistan last year and also emphasized the consolidation of the excellent relations between our two countries brought about by [the] setting up of [a] Kenya mission in Islamabad at [the] ambassadorial level. President Zia had conveyed his warm greetings to President Moi. [Excerpts] [*Nairobi KNA in English 1857 GMT 15 Oct 84 EA*]

SOMALIA

Said Barre Returns From Visit to UAE

EA170936 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Somali Democratic Republic President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre and his delegation arrived in Mogadishu this afternoon after a brief visit to the UAE. Speaking to Ministry of Information reporters at the Presidency, the president said he had held talks on the development of relations between Somalia and the UAE and matters of interest between the two fraternal peoples of Somali and the UAE with Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. Somali Democratic Republic President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre added that the situation in the Arab world, the Horn of Africa, and international issues had been among issues discussed. These talks had been held in a good atmosphere and the two sides held similar views on their discussions.

Challe Siad Barre said he and members of his delegation had been accorded a warm reception reflecting the long-standing and fraternal relations between the two countries and peoples.

TANZANIA

Chad Envoy Delivers Habre Message to Nyerere

EA170505 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam — President Nyerere today received a special message from President Hissein Habre of the Republic of Chad on current developments inside his country. The message was delivered by the Chadian minister of planning and national reconciliation, Mr Joseph Yodoyman, when he paid a courtesy call at Mwalimu's Msasani residence.

A statement issued by the State House in Dar es Salaam said the Chadian minister also briefed Mwalimu on the recent accord between Libya and the Government of France on a mutual troops withdrawal from Chad. The minister, who arrived in Dar es Salaam on Sunday from Addis Ababa, also briefed the president on efforts being made on national reconciliation in Chad.

President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of Congo is organizing a meeting in Brazzaville on Saturday in an effort to reconcile different factions inside Chad.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Kolingba Receives French General Lacaze

AB161113 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Text] The CAR head of state, General Andre Kolingba, this morning received General Jeannou Lacaze, chief of General Staff of the French Armed Forces. Their discussions centered mainly on the recent visit by General Lacaze to Chad to inspect French military positions in that country in connection with the Franco-Libyan pullout. They also exchanged views on bilateral relations between France and our country. Relations between the CAR and France are good, but a lot remains to be done in the economic sector in particular.

[Begin recording] [Lacaze] Relations between France and the CAR have always been good. I have just ended a 3-day visit to Chad where I discussed with President Hissein Habre the troop withdrawal issue and the implementation of the bilateral agreement that we signed with Libya.

[Unidentified reporter] General, could you brief us on the result of your meetings in Chad?

[Lacaze] Under the bilateral agreement that I just mentioned, the French forces of Operation Manta are pulling out of all their positions and within the time fixed in the agreement with the Libyans, and from all indications we believe that the Libyans are doing the same.

[Reporter] General, the French and Libyan troops have started to pullout, however, VOA announced that this is (?not the case). What do you think of this?

[Lacaze] We do not agree with what VOA announced because we know that a number of Libyan units are regrouping, and even that a number of them are moving toward the north. [end recording]

CHAD

Cabinet, UNIR To Discuss Brazzaville Meeting

AB161039 Paris AFP in English 1027 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Ndjamena, Oct 16 (AFP) — The Chadian Cabinet was today due to hold an enlarged extraordinary meeting here in advance of Saturday's opening in Brazzaville of a meeting on national reconciliation in Chad, and authoritative Chadian source said. The Cabinet meeting, chaired by President Hissein Habre, will probably be enlarged to include the Executive Bureau of the recently formed National Union for Independence and Revolution (UNIR), the sole legal political party, a reliable source said.

The meeting follows an official announcement yesterday in Brazzaville, the capital of Congo, that a preparatory meeting for the planned Chad reconciliation conference is to be held next Saturday. However, news of the Brazzaville meeting had still not been officially announced here early today. The Congolese statement said that all delegations to the planned national reconciliation conference had agreed to attend the preparatory meeting. Moves to convene the conference had previously been held up by disagreements between the two main participants — Mr Habre's government and the Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT), which Mr Habre ousted in 1982 — over their respective statuses.

Report on Cabinet Meeting

AB161945 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Report on extraordinary Cabinet meeting held in Ndjamena on 16 October read by Le Moiban Yorongar, secretary of state at the Presidency in Charge of General Inspection and State Control and acting minister delegate at the Presidency in Charge of Information — live]

[Text] Report on the extraordinary Cabinet meeting: On this day, 16 October 1984, an extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet and of the Executive Bureau of the Central Committee of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR] was held under the chairmanship of His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the republic, head of state, chairman of the Council of Ministers and UNIR founding chairman.

There was only one item on the agenda, that is the preliminary meeting on reconciliation in Chad scheduled to take place in Brazzaville in the People's Republic of Congo. The Cabinet examined the issue extensively and made the following decisions:

1. The government of the Third Republic agrees to participate in the Brazzaville preliminary conference on the date proposed by the Government of the People's Republic of Congo, that is, 20 October 1984.

2. The Chadian Government intends to hold discussions at this meeting with all opposition members and all opposition groups.

3. The government of the Third Republic reasserts its determination to do all in its power to restore the dignity of Chad with neither complacence nor compromise.

4. The government calls on all well-meaning Chadians both within and outside the country to seize the opportunity that is being given them to strive to achieve the legitimate aspirations of the Chadian people, that is peace, unity and national harmony, territorial integrity, sovereignty, independence, and development of Chad. The meeting began at 1000 and ended at 1820.

Libya Continues To Strengthen Military Position

AB161128 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] Our relations with Libya cannot suddenly change so as to conform with international rules unless Al-Qadhdhafi returns

to reason. If one observes the behavior of the Libyans, one will see that even the latest development of the situaiton — that is the withdrawal of the French troops and the Libyan annexationist forces from our country — is far from reassuring the Chadian people about the intentions of Tripoli, which still wants to dominate Chad at all costs.

Al-Qadhdhafi's political strategy — which is characterized by a military adventurism that is most dangerous for peace not only in Africa but also in the whole world — is now clearly demonstrated by the Libyan megalomaniac's rash invasion of Chad. As we have always said, this invasion is the first stage leading to other territorial conquests. It is true that we are now being repeatedly told that the Libyans will respect their bilateral agreement with France. Yes, but the Chadians have the right to remain skeptical because they know the nature of the Libyan invaders better than anyone else. The atmosphere of implacable terror imposed by the Libyan terrorists in the annexed areas is reported to us from time to time by some compatriots who were able to escape from the Libyan hell represented by the occupied zones.

After thoroughly examining his conscience, a military officer belonging to the eastern sub-garrison in Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti District — in Fada to be more precise — did his utmost to escape from the Libyans. Of all the testimonies we have received so far from the national territory under the yoke of the Libyan mercenaries, the report of our compatriot Koua is so horrible that the acts of the Libyans cannot be anything but deliberate atrocities against the Chadians. In addition to the intensive campaign of depersonalization of the Chadians and the inhuman practice of degrading the Chadians in their own ancestral land, the Libyans — contrary to what we are being told — continue to strengthen their military positions in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti district instead of withdrawing their troops, as the French are doing south of the famous 16th parallel.

In this condition, what can we say about the credibility of Al-Qadhdhafi or his accomplices, such as Triki and the other ambassadors of falsehood being paid by Libya, when they say that they will respect the French-Libyan troop withdrawal accord? Immediately after the famous agreement was announced, we said that it was a political and diplomatic bait. Al-Qadhdhafi's nature (?does not encourage one) to be blissfully enthusiastic. Al-Qadhdhafi's declarations cannot deceive us. Al-Qadhdhafi's declarations cannot, like a magic wand, settle the differences existing between Chad and Libya as a result of the annexation of our country.

Our compatriot's report to the national press requires a thorough analysis of Tripoli's manifest intention to continue with its operation of destabilization of Chad through the imposition of a permanent war on our country with the help of its petro-dollars. For many years now, the Libyans have been recruiting some adventurous Chadians to (?kill other Chadians) and — with the help of all sorts of mercenaries — they have been sending Chadians to attack Chad in order to weaken it so that it may be dominated easily. This is why there is a permanent state of war in Chad.

The Chadian Government, which has never evaded its responsibility of defending Chad's territorial integrity, continues to appeal to the sense of patriotism of the Chadians owing allegiance to the Libyans so that these Chadians may stop selling their souls to the devil and return to reason. Reconciliation is a necessity for our coveted country.

'Violent Clashes' Reported With FAN in South

AB162015 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Summary] "Just a few days prior to 20 October, the date which the People's Republic of Congo has proposed for the holding of a national reconciliation conference on Chad in Brazzaville and which the Transitional National Union Government has agreed to, military activities have increased in the south of the country to the great advantage of the National Liberation Army [ANL] forces, as can be seen in the following military communique from the Ministry of National Defense and Veterans Affairs:

"Violent clashes took place on 12 and 13 October between the valiant ANL fighters and the FAN puppet horde in the subdivision [sous-prefecture] of (?Gobe) and in the division [prefecture] of Mbaigoro between (?Biltine) and Mbaigoro. The clashes lasted 2 days and ended in the total disorganization of the puppet troops." After taking control of the area, the ANL troops routed the reactionary enemies and withdrew in an orderly manner. The ANL troops intercepted a FAN column in (?Mbaigoro). A quantity of weapons were (?destroyed). In another clash, the valiant ANL commando units inflicted several casualties on the enemy groups. Half of the FAN column was annihilated.

Saudis Release Arrested GUNT Officials

AB162025 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The secretary of state for finance and economy, Abderrahman Issa Youssouf; Mahamat (Fachour), a former member of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT]; and Mahamat (Atakora) have been released from detention by the Saudi authorities. As we reported in our newscasts, they were arrested by the Saudi authorities at the request of the leader of the Ndjamena group while they were performing the pilgrimage in the Holy Land. Comrades Youssouf and (Atakora) have returned to Bardai.

GABON

President Bongo To Visit Cameroon on 17 October

AB160912 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpts] El-Hadj Omar Bongo will be a Yaounde in 24 hours time. The president of the republic is going there tomorrow for a friendly visit. President Bongo will be back in Libreville on the same day.

BURKINA

SDAR Leader Abdelaziz Holds Press Conference

AB161700 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Text] After the reading of the joint communique marking the end of the SDAR leader's visit to Burkina, the SDAR leader held a brief interview with the national press. First of all he took stock of his visit to Burkina.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Comrade President, you have practically come to the end of your first visit to Burkina. What are the feelings you would like to express before your departure?

[Abdelaziz in Arabic followed by French translation] I am very pleased to answer questions from the Burkinabe press. In fact, our visit has come to an end and we are leaving with excellent impressions about the achievements of the revolution in spite of the short time it has been in existence — that is since its birth on 4 August 1983 [words indistinct]. We highly appreciate your achievements in regard to the mobilization and the channeling of the energies of the people toward the objectives and principles of the revolution.

In spite of its brevity, our visit enabled us to see some of the progress made in Burkina. We saw first of all that the revolution is in very good shape and we also noticed that the revolution is engaged in a fierce battle, the battle for development and progress for the well-being of the Burkina masses. I can say that after my brief stay and after the very fruitful talks I had with my friend and brother, Comrade Thomas Sankara, after my talks with the National Council of the Revolution [CNR], and with the government, and after my visits to some areas, I have found that the revolution in Burkina Faso is progressing. It is very authentic and has a strategic significance and involves a mobilized, aware people who have regained their dignity. I can therefore say that the revolution is developing in the right direction [words indistinct] under the guidance of the CNR.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the Burkinabe and the country's leaders for the solidarity and affection shown us, as well as the warm reception accorded us during our stay. We can therefore say that we are leaving with the full assurance that relations between the two revolutions of Burkina Faso and the SDAR are strong. [end recording]

CAPE VERDE

Prime Minister Pires To Begin European Tour

AB161645 Paris AFP in French 1300 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Praia, 16 Oct (AFP) — Pedro Pires, prime minister of the Republic of Cape Verde, begins a European tour on Wednesday that will take him to Austria, Italy, and Portugal. Mr Pires, who will stay in Austria until 20 October, will go from there to Italy, from 21 to 24 October, and on his way back home will stopover in Lisbon to meet the Portuguese president and prime minister.

The Cape Verdian prime minister will be accompanied on his tour by Joao Pereira Silva, minister of rural development; Aguinaldo Lisboa Ramos, secretary of state for foreign affairs; and Renato Cardoso, an advisor.

Meanwhile, an Algerian delegation led by Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, member of the Political Bureau of the Algerian Liberation Front and minister of state at the presidency, arrived in Praia on Tuesday. Abdelghani is to deliver a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to the president of the Republic of Cape Verde, Aristides Pereira.

IVORY COAST

Agreement Signed With France on Debt Rescheduling

AB160900 Paris AFP in French 1744 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Text] Abidjan, 15 Oct (AFP) — An agreement on the rescheduling of Ivorian foreign debts has been signed between France and Ivory Coast, it was learned in Abidjan on Monday.

Ivorian sources said an agreement was signed on 7 September by the Ivorian Government and it was expected to be endorsed by France very soon. The agreement is on the rescheduling of a total amount of Fr 1.117 billion corresponding to the debt due for the period between 1 December 1983 and 31 December 1984. This amount represents the debt servicing, on the one hand, of the loans granted by the French Government — Aid and Cooperation Fund and the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation — that is a total sum of Fr 380 million (Fr 132 million for principal and Fr 248 million for interests) and, on the other hand, of private loans guaranteed by Coface [Committee of Family Organizations in the European Communities], that is Fr 737 million (Fr 557 million as principal and Fr 180 million as interests).

A global agreement was signed last May with Ivory Coast's creditors which met within the Paris Club. The agreement provided for an extension of time for repayment over a period of 9 years, with a 4-year grace period. The interest rates will be negotiated with each of the creditor countries concerned.

Two agreements for the rescheduling of Ivorian debts have already been signed. The first was signed with Switzerland on 31 August and involved the amount of 80 million Swiss francs while the second was signed on 13 September with the FRG for the amount of DM 35 million.

LIBERIA

Citizens May Confer With Doe on State Matters

AB162040 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The Liberian leader, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has said that he would allow citizens to confer with him on matters relating to the welfare of the state. Dr Doe said that as of now, citizens wishing to see him or confer with him would not be put off because of the presence of top government officials at the Executive Mansion. According to Information

Minister Carlton Karpeh, Dr Doe made the statement yesterday during a Cabinet meeting at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia.

In an effort to ensure this, the Liberian leader said that Cabinet ministers and other government officials would be given 2 days in the week to discuss official matters with him except where he sent for a minister or a head of government agency. [sentence as heard] Dr Doe then directed that all matters from heads of agencies or ministries should be conducted by telephone with the minister of state for presidential affairs.

The Liberian leader also cautioned Cabinet ministers against shirking responsibility in the performance of their duties.

Minister Held in Contempt for Releasing Detainees

AB160941 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] It has been announced that Justice Minister Jenkins Scott has been held in contempt by the civil law in Monrovia for allegedly releasing two suspects detained by the court in connection with the $100,000 debt case. According to the writ, Mr Scott is to appear before the court and show cause why he should not be held in contempt proceedings for releasing the two detainees without valid bonds.

Civil law court Judge Pearson said the accused, Eugenia Satu and Dominica Lakpati, should have been released only on the court's orders under bonds valued twice the amount for which they were detained. The judge explained that the accused were detained by the court for fear that they may abscond, but the sheriff's returned file to the court said that the justice minister refused a summons to appear in court and threatened to close down the civil law court if the judge proceeds with his contempt proceeding against him.

Meanwhile Judge Pearson has said that he will take a series of actions against Minister Scott for what he termed as gross disrespect to the court, but he did not elaborate.

Theft Case Against Chea Cheapoo Dismissed

AB162030 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The special theft court in Monrovia today dismissed the $800,000 property theft case involving former Justice Minister Chea Cheapoo. According to the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY, the case was dismissed following a motion by the prosecution asking the court to dismiss the matter with reservation [words indistinct] in keeping with law. Following the prosecution's motion, Chief Judge Marcel Matthews said the court had no other alternative but to discharge the accused and dismiss the case.

Former Justice Minister Chea Cheapoo was brought before the theft court for allegedly stealing in 1981 mobile equipment valued at $800,000 from the Liberia Overseas Venture Corporation in Grand Jide County.

NIGER

Kountche Decision To Hand Over Power Praised

AB161610 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 16 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *SATELLITE* totally welcomes the decision of President Seyni Kountche of Niger to voluntarily hand over power to elected civilians. The paper says the move is a remarkable departure from the tradition of African leaders who fixedly sit in office. The *SATELLITE* exhorts other African leaders to emulate General Kountche's example.

NIGERIA

Delegation Leaves for Four-Nation Meeting in Lome

AB161048 Lagos NAN in English 1032 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Lagos, Oct 15 (NAN) — The minister of internal affairs, Brig Mohammed Magoro left Lagos today for Lome, Togo, at the head of the Nigerian delegation to the second four-nation meeting involving Nigeria, the Republic of Benin, Ghana and Togo.

A source in the Ministry of External Affairs told a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the meeting would be attended by ministers of internal affairs, external affairs and immigration officials from the four countries. Others to be represented at the meeting are the police, customs and Ministries of Justice and National Planning the source said.

The director-general (Africa Dept) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Ambassador Hambat Ahmadu, will represent the minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari.

The first meeting of the four countries, which was held in August in Lome, discussed currency and drug trafficking, arms smuggling and activities of illegal immigrants in the sub-region.

Former Governor, Deputy Get 42-Year Jail Terms

AB162200 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] A former governor of Oyo State, Chief Bola Ige, and his deputy, Adebisi Akande, were today sentenced to 42 years imprisonment each on a two-count charge of conspiracy and corrupt enrichment of the proscribed Unity Party of Nigeria [UPN]. The sentences will run concurrently.

The Ibadan Zone of the Special Military Tribunal on the Recovery of Public Property directed that the sum of 589,400 naira, which was paid from the contingency votes of the then local government councils to the State Secretariat of the UPN, be refunded to the Federal Government within 1 month of the confirmation of the sentences. Reviewing the cases earlier, the chairman of the tribunal, Brigadier Charles Ndiemu said that

from the evidence before it, the substantial increases in the contingency allowances to local governments in 1983 received the approval of both Ige and Akande because it was an election year. Brig Ndiemu said that the tribunal considered it criminally wrong to give out government money for political activities. He said that Akande, as the deputy governor of the state, could not deny knowledge of payment by the local government treasurers to the state wings of the party.

Britain Urged To Extradite Umaru Dikko

AB161222 Lagos International Service in English 0930 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Bill Jacobson commentary]

[Excerpts] Leopards, we are told, do not change their skin. Nothing can be more appropriate in referring to fugitive Umaru Dikko, the transport minister in the defunct civilian regime and chairman of the presidential task force in charge of rice importation for the people of Nigeria. His appearance in a London court last Friday and his reappearance 2 days later on charges of defrauding rice sellers in the United States to the tune of about $200 million, is most revealing.

It should be clear by now to the Thatcher administration in Britain that it is not being fair to the government and people of Nigeria to whom it has professed friendship and whose economy the British Government promised to help back on its feet. One finds it particularly galling that the charge preferred against Umaru Dikko in London was not listed on the court case last Friday when other cases were prominently displayed. Besides, the complete secrecy with which Umaru Dikko's appearance in court was shrouded has to be explained by the British Government. It is now clear to the entire world that Britain is not sincere with her professed claim of support for efforts of revamping the battered economy of Nigeria.

If as a matter of fact Britain wants Nigeria to believe that she is a friend indeed, this is the opportune moment for her to prove her willingness to come to the aid of Nigeria by denying Umaru Dikko unjustified courtesies and privileges being extended to the former minister. Umaru Dikko is on the run from justice in Nigeria and it is the wish of Nigerians that this big time fugitive be returned to Nigeria to face justice.

Britain has to remember that her friendship with Nigeria has been a long-standing one and, from all available statistics, the economy of Britain has benefited tremendously from her trade association with Nigeria. In these circumstances, therefore, Nigeria believes that the Thatcher government now has a moral obligation to contribute to efforts in ensuring that fugitive Umaru Dikko be brought back home for trial. After all, one of the colleagues of Umaru Dikko in the Cabinet of the last civilian regime, Victor Masi, has faced trial for his part in the wrecking of the Nigerian economy and has since been jailed, having been found guilty.

It is therefore inconceivable for Britain to continue to give sanctuary to fugitive Umaru Dikko, who should, as a necessity, come and account for his part in the current state of the Nigerian economy. The game is up and Britain should see it as such and send back home Umaru Dikko and other Nigerians who have been enjoying the comforts in London, having run away from justice in their fatherland.

ANGOLA

FAPLA Officer Says UNITA Losing Control in Provinces

MB160842 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The UNITA armed bandits cannot at the moment control the road network that links the provinces of Malanje, Lunda Sul, and Moxico, because of strong action by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] against the criminal gangs operating in this area, Major (Queba), the commander of the 10th Military Region, has assured ANGOP. This officer of the Angolan Armed Forces, who gave an interview to ANGOP, said that the enemy in that region will never attain its objectives of complete economic destabilization through the paralysis of diamond mining and destabilization of supplies.

The UNITA bandits, Maj (Queba) underlined, avoid direct contact with the national forces of defense and security, thus revealing their military incapacity. Referring to the hard blows that FAPLA has lately dealt to the lackeys of the racist Pretoria regime in the 10th Military Region, Maj (Queba) disclosed that on 20 September, 20 UNITA bandits were killed by the Angolan combatants when a group of criminals treacherously attacked the hamlet of Catalumba, unaware of FAPLA's presence in that area.

One other criminal action was attempted by the armed bandits last July, but did not succeed due to the presence of Angolan troops near the Pezo and Luangue bridges, which the UNITA groups tried to destroy.

At the moment, the enemy cannot control any strategic area, from either a military or economic point of view, in Lunda Sul Province or on the road that links Malanje with Saurimo and Luena cities, Maj (Queba) emphasized during his interview. However, he said, about 3 months ago the enemy strengthened its position in the Kala region and carried out a number of criminal actions against vehicles traveling between Dala and Saurimo and against the traditional settlements near rivers and lagoons.

Maj (Queba) emphasized that none of the vehicles attacked by the UNITA armed bandits was military. The enemy only attacks isolated civilian vehicles or unprotected populations, he said. Speaking on the specific objectives of these actions, the commander of the 10th Military Region said that they are the same that have driven UNITA or other puppet groups for a number of years: to follow the plans drawn up by imperialism, led by the United States and South Africa, in this southern part of Africa.

With regard to that, ANGOP asked how the armed bandits receive military and human support, and how they would receive it in the future, if the principle is accepted that without a secure rearguard no military action can be realized. Maj (Queba) answered that possibly UNITA will search for new areas to install its support bases, because the geographical position of Lunda Sul Province is far from UNITA's initial support points in Namibia, which is occupied by the racist South African troops.

Also regarding the criminal actions of UNITA in Lunda Sul Province, ANGOP published an interview on 14 October with (Delfim de Castro), the provincial commissioner of this region. This official revealed that the enemy actions are a main factor in the economic and social backwardness of a region that has the capacity to produce great quantities of rice and breed hundreds of cattle for the production milk and [words indistinct]. The production of rice and cattle breeding are hampered by the criminal actions of the UNITA bandits.

(Delfim de Castro), moreover, emphasized the importantance of the young combatants of the FAPLA in neutralizing and annihilating bandit pockets, allowing a not necessarily harmonious, but an essential development in the region.

3 UNITA Men Executed, 74 Killed in Action

MB170705 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The day before yesterday, three criminals in the pay of the UNITA puppet organization were sentenced to death by firing squad for carrying out crimes against the state security. These criminals, namely (Daniel Catemba), (Eduardo Kesango), and (Paulino Katuto Puko), carried out ambushes, mined roads and tracks, and assaulted the villages near Cubango, Matala, Chicomba, and Caluquembe. The verdict was pronounced by the 5th Region military tribunal.

What is more, the National Defense and Security Force offensive against the UNITA criminal gangsters continues in various areas of the country with great success. In the provinces of Moxico, Bie, Huambo, and Cuando Cubango, between 19 and 26 September, the National Forces killed 74 UNITA bandits who had carried out acts of pillage against the peaceful populations and economic concerns. These operations also resulted in the capture of seven UNITA armed bandits, the freeing of a large number of peasants, and the seizing of a large quantity of war materiel.

BOTSWANA

President Calls Arms Seized in Greece 'Unauthorized'

MB161154 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] A statement just received says the office of the president has received a report concerning a French cargo plane held by the Greek authorities for landing in Greece with an unauthorized shipment of weapons. The shipment is reported to consist of 7,500 Italian-made automatic pistols and 6 cases of ammunition, which are said to be bound for Botswana.

The office of the president states categorically that the allegation that the weapons in question are destined for Botswana is completely false. The Botswana authorities are convinced that this is a case of someone buying arms illegally and using Botswana's name for the purpose. And it is hoped that the Greek authorities will confiscate the weapons.

The Department of External Affairs has sent messages to the governments of Italy, France, and Greece informing them that the Botswana Government has nothing to do with the arms shipment. The statement says further: Unfortunately, this is not the first time that Botswana's name has been used to try to secure an illegal arms deal.

About a year ago, a Botswana arms dealer placed an order with a South African firm for sporting rifles and 140,000 rounds of assorted ammunition. The South African firm concerned supplied the required rifles and ammunition. The firm then apparently placed an order with a supplier in the United States for 280,000 rounds of ammunition, quoting the Botswana dealer as consignee and end user, and describing itself as a forwarding agent for the Botswana dealer. The deal came to nothing, the statement says, following consultations between the United States and Botswana authorities on the matter.

MOZAMBIQUE

FPLA Kills 6 'Bandits' in Tete, 4 in Mauiro

MB161131 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The Mozambique Armed Forces destroyed an armed bandit camp in Chinze, Moatize District, Tete Province, on 6 October. Six armed bandits were killed and war materiel was captured at the camp. The FPLM also recovered people's property stolen by the armed bandits, including 30 head of cattle and 100 goats.

On 7 October, our forces killed four armed bandits in Mauiro area, 40 km from Catandica, on the road between Manica and Tete. In Mauiro, the Mozambique Armed Forces also captured two boxes of ammunition and six cartridges of automatic weapons.

BBC Notes 'Confusion' Over Pretoria Talks

MB161908 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 16 Oct 84

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There is still considerable confusion over the state of the negotiations in the South African capital, Pretoria, on a cease-fire in Mozambique, where Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] guerillas are still fighting the Frelimo government. The commission set up to work out an end to the violence is due to meet again this week.

Yesterday, Mozambique's chief negotiator, General Jacinto Veloso, said that he could see no immediate prospects of a cease-fire, but another member of the Mozambique team, Colonel Sergio Vieira, has said that most of the decisions about an end to the war have been agreed on. From Maputo, Lois Browne cabled this report:

[Unidentified announcer] Colonel Sergio Vieira announced that everything to do with the cessation of violence in Mozambique has been settled except for the date of implementation. Colonel Vieira was speaking to about 2,000 students and teachers at the University of Eduardo Mondlane during one of a series of meetings organized by government and party officials to inform people about the negotiations with South Africa. He said that between 10,000 and 15,000 MNR [Renamo] rebels will have to be reintegrated. In his words, there are too many to bring before revolutionary military tribunals and we know what the results would be, by which he meant that many would be sentenced to death if they were tried.

He told his audience that it was difficult to carry out mass executions, and so the rebels should be reintergrated instead. The university would be expected to accept Constantino Reis, a former member of the education faculty who fled Mozambique 2 years ago during a security roundup of dissidents. Reis was implicated in letter and telephone threats to local party people. He went on to broadcast for the MNR Radio, known here as Radio Hyena, until it was shut down by South Africa after the signing of the Nkomati Accord.

Reintergration of rebels is now being introduced as government policy. The minister of information, Jose Cabaco, recently told Mozambican journalists that although they should give full details of MNR and Army activties to the outside world, they should be careful in presenting news for internal consumption of exaggerations and too many gory details. They should bear in mind, he said, the interests of reintegration.

Italian Technicians Leave Dam Site After Attack

MB161548 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Our Africa Desk reports that about half the technical work force building a dam in southern Mozambique have packed up and left after a terrorist attack on the worker's' compound at the weekend. About 30 Italian technicians and their families are now in Maputo after their living quarters were shelled for most of Saturday night.

There are still about 40 Portuguese nationals working on the project at the Small Lebombo Dam, which is about 80 km from the capital. They are being protected by Frelimo troops. The report says it is not certain if the Italian nationals will return to the project or leave Mozambique in the wake of the attack, which was thought by observers to be the work of the Mozambique Resistance Movement.

Libyan Doctors Arrive To Assist Rural Areas

MB161023 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0900 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] In Maputo yesterday, Fernando Vaz, the deputy minister of health, received a delegation of Libyan doctors who are in our country on a working visit. The possibility of the delegation rendering medical assistance in a rural area for a period of 1 to 2 months was studied during the meeting. A source from the Ministry of Health pointed out that before a place is selected for the delegation to work, the Libyans will visit a number of health

centers to see real conditions. The delegation of Libyan doctors is in our country at the invitation of Islamic Council of Mozambique.

NAMIBIA

Western Powers Support RSA 'Colonialism'

MB170658 Lusaka Voice of Namibia in English 1830 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Station commentary: "The Elimination of the Last Vestige of Colonialism in Africa"]

[Text] The 39th session of the UN General Assembly opened in New York last month with the Namibian independence issue high on top of its agenda. Addressing the UN General Assembly session recently, the Soviet foreign minister, Andrey Gromyko, voiced his faith that despite all maneuvers, tricks, and delaying tactics of the Pretoria racist regime and its Western patrons, Namibia's freedom and independence is inevitable.

Gromyko's statement came amidst the attempts by the Pretoria regime to retain its colonial rule in Namibia in defiance of the UN decisions and resolutions. The South African regime has resorted to intimidation and other methods of threatening the independence of Angola and other neighboring independent African states. The regime could not have committed arbitrary atrocities if it had not been encouraged by some Western nations. The situation in the South of Africa is turning into one of international tension.

In this connection, the United States, Britain, and France are the main imperialist backers of Pretoria. As a result, the regime is ever more openly practicing state-sponsored terrorism towards the neighboring states in an effort to impose on these countries its domination through direct military pressure, economic blackmail, and political provocation.

By so doing, the Pretoria terrorist regime is claiming to be seeking stability and peace in the region. But, on the contrary, Pretoria is not giving up its subversive activities against the frontline states. South African troops are still occupying some areas of the southern parts of Angola. South African secret services, jointly with the CIA, continue to supply arms and ammunition to rebel groups in Angola and Mozambique. Botswana and Lesotho are exceedingly threatened.

The Pretoria regime is taking a more aggressive stance on the Namibian issue. Only 2 or 3 years ago Botha thought to hoodwink the world public by stating his readiness to cooperate with the UN resolutions under certain conditions. Today the racists openly disclose their intentions to unilaterally proclaim Namibia's independence, installing into power their puppets, and eventually bar SWAPO from leading and deciding the country's future and the nation's destiny.

Pretoria is using the Washington idea of linkage as the main pretext to justify its actions. It is in this light that the Angolan head of state, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, in an interview published in Washington of late, declared that his government is ready to cooperate with Washington to bring about Namibia's independence. He also disclosed that Angola will consider the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops from the People's Republic of Angola when South African troops are withdrawn from the southern parts of Angola. These are the words of a committed leader who is interested in peace and stability in Southern Africa.

Had it not been for South Africa, which is the last vestige of colonialism in Africa, the region could be stable and peaceful today. It is therefore advisable for the current UN General Assembly to take appropriate measures against Pretoria, and to make sure that she complies with the world public opinion and ends her illegal occupation of Namibia.

Namibia's independence has been deliberately delayed for too long now, and urgent steps must be taken to ensure that Namibia also becomes a member of the family of nations. The colonial policy of South Africa and its Western allies is an historically doomed anomaly in the contemporary world. We are more confident than ever before that, with the support of independent Africa and progressive forces the world over, the Namibian people will liberate themselves and their country from oppression, exploitation, colonialism, and economic plunder. The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

SOUTH AFRICA

Anderson Criticizes Botha on Human Rights

MB161004 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0825 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Durban, Oct 16, SAPA — Visiting British Labour Party MP, Mr Donald Anderson, said today he would "dearly love" to have a debate with the South African foreign minister on the legal systems of Britain and South Africa. In a statement to SAPA in Durban, Mr Anderson said such a debate should also cover human rights abuses in South Africa and "elsewhere in Africa," and a discussion of "disappareances."

Referring to such "disappareances," Mr Anderson said a Mr Siphiwo Mtimkhulu vanished in South Africa in April, 1982. "Let me gently remind him (Mr Botha) that it is not my country which is in the dock on this issue (human rights abuses), it is not my country which is an international leper and it is not my country which blandly refuses to recognise the political rights of three-quarters of its people, and silences by law the voices of their representatives," the statement said.

On detention, there was "just no comparison" between Britain and South Africa. "Even when such legislation was briefly enforced in Britain, legal safeguards were provided and no minister could have got away with detention without giving some reason." When Mr Botha talked "loftily" of principles, he should "come with clean hands," Mr Anderson said.

In a reference to South Africa's refusal to send four of its citizens back to Britain to face arms charges in response to Britain's refusal to eject South African dissidents from its Durban Con-

sulate, the Labour MP asked: "Is it one of his (Mr Botha's) principles to make solemn promises to an English judge which he has no intention of keeping?"

Botha Reacts to Anderson, Slabbert
MB161758 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Requests by the visiting British Labor Party parliamentarian, Mr Donald Anderson, to visit other detainees in South Africa have been refused. The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said on inquiry that Mr Anderson's requests to visit the three South African citizens who had been holed up in the British Consulate in Durban and were redetained when they left it had been granted. This visit had taken place yesterday. His further requests to visit other detainees were refused.

Mr Botha said Mr Anderson should begin to realize that his actions were predictable and conceited. [Johannesburg SAPA in English at 1734 GMT on 16 October renders this phrase "predictable and presumptuous (verwaand)"] Referring to Mr Anderson's statement that no one had been detained without trial in Britain since 1975, Mr Botha said that according to information at his disposal, hundreds of people had at times been detained without trial in Northern Ireland since this date. Mr Botha said he took it that Mr Anderson would reconsider his statement in view of the facts.

Reacting to the latest statements by Mr Anderson and the leader of the oppositon in parliament, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, concerning the merits of South Africa's actions in the consulate affairs, Mr Botha said their general unfounded comments were once again made without addressing the underlying legal principles. If, as had been reported, Dr Slabbert had accepted the doctrine of international reprisal, then it was clear that he had not grasped completely the international legal aspects of the subject, nor the results of this. Otherwise, Dr Slabbert would not have been able to express the opinions he had with so much emotion.

Mr Botha said both Mr Anderson and Dr Slabbert were not basing their views on any legal authority. He said that adjectives were no substitute for sound argument, and that was why it would serve no purpose to argue the matter further. Mr Anderson ended his 3-day visit to Durban today with a brief lunch with the three men in the consulate. It was Mr Anderson's third meeting with the three since his arrival in the country on Sunday.

Slabbert Calls Decision on UK Accused 'Inept'
MB161340 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The leader of the opposition in the House of Assembly, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, says the fact that Britain has allowed the fugitive members of the United Democratic Front and the Natal Indian Congress refuge in the British Consulate in Durban is in fact preventing the police from serving legal detention orders on them, but that in his view the law under which the orders have been issued is devoid of justice.

Dr Slabbert was responding to questions by the minister of foreign affairs, and said in Cape Town that the South African retaliation in not allowing four South Africans to return to Britain for a court case was diplomatically inept, morally indefensible, and politically stupid.

Continued RSA Presence in Angola Defended
MB161013 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Station commentary: "Angola and the Cubans"]

[Text] Angola's President dos Santos is quite right when he says that South Africa has not yet pulled all her forces out of Angola, but he is quite wrong when he puts this down simply to a (?dogged refusal) by South Africa to do so. It must be pointed out that the withdrawal of South African forces from Angola was to have taken place in terms of the Lusaka Accords between South Africa and Angola's MPLA-Labor government.

These accords clearly stipulate that in the wake of the South African withdrawal, the MPLA's FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] forces, must not only take control of the areas vacated, but must also control the activities of SWAPO terrorists. This has not happened.

Reports from the Joint Monitoring Commission, the South African Defense Force, and UNITA leader Dr Jonas Savimbi, whose forces operate in southern Angola, state categorically that SWAPO forces have been regrouping in the area and have become increasingly active. This being the case, there is no chance of South Africa pulling her forces out of southern Angola and keeping her side of the bargain struck in Lusaka.

There are two possible explanations for the situation. The one is that SWAPO is merely ignoring instructions from the Luanda government and that the MPLA, although sincere in its intentions to control SWAPO, is finding it impossible to do so simply because its forces are overextended due to the war against UNITA.

The other explanation is that the Soviet Union has been putting pressure on the MPLA not to control SWAPO. UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi is convinced that the Soviet Union is going all out to wreck the agreement between South Africa and the MPLA, and there appears to be some truth in this.

The Soviets have nothing to gain from rapprochement in southern Africa simply because it would make their main agent in the region, the Cubans, redundant, and it will destroy the climate of instability in which the Soviets thrive. Another point to make is that today a Cuban withdrawal from Angola has nothing to do with South Africa's presence in that country. The Cubans are not in Angola to protect the MPLA-Labor government against South African forces. They are there to stop the UNITA forces from overrunning the country. Unless an accommodation is reached between UNITA and the MPLA, any talk of President dos Santos' getting rid of the Cubans must be relegated to the realm of rhetoric.

Editorial Urges Pretoria To Make Peace With ANC

MB161450 Durban ILANGA in Zulu 8-10 Oct 84 p 4

[Editorial in English: "Make Peace With the ANC"]

[Text] Far be it from us to belittle the efforts of the South African Government in trying to restore peace and stability in Mozambique, although we must confess we find it hard to suppress the odd giggle or two at the sight of pugnacious-looking, sternfaced Mr Pik Botha playing the role of peace-broker and international policeman rolled into one.

We once dubbed the foreign affairs minister the poor man's Henry Kissinger. It was at the height of Mr Botha's buzz-saw shuttle activities when he was tying up all sorts of accords and declarations with neighbouring black states. Now he seems to be excelling himself.

We find it interesting, for instance, that Mr Botha should have presided at the peace talks in Pretoria involving the renegade Renamo movement of Mozambique. We find it odder still that a declaration has been signed purporting to pave the way for a cessation of hostilities between Samora Machel's men and Renamo. Is South Africa now admitting at long last that it has always had more than passing interest in the terrorist rebels who have allegedly received support and training from Pretoria? Whichever way one looks at it, by its involvement with the whole Mozambican terrorist scene, the South African regime is giving tacit recognition and legitimacy to Renamo.

It immediately causes us to ask why, if Renamo can be entertained in Pretoria with its accord of aggression and terrorist activities against the legitimate government of Mr Machel the ANC should not be accorded similar recognition. After all, the ANC is also fighting for the establishment of a truly democratic state in South Africa, the same as Renamo claims to be doing in Mozambique. So why make fish of Renamo and fowl of the ANC? If the attainment of peace and orderliness in Southern Africa remains the prime objective, then we say South Africa should start here at home first and make peace with the ANC.

Expanded Role of Local Governments Noted

MB151026 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Security of communities and the promotion of their interests will in future depend more than ever before on the contribution they make to local government. This is the message emanating from the annual congress of the Transvaal Municipal Association held in Johannesburg last week.

South Africans are known for being indifferent toward local government. Percentage polls in municipal election has been known to be higher than 40, but they are the exception rather than the rule. In most cases they are closer to 20 percent. Few people up to now have become overly concerned with water and power supples or building and traffic regulations. It has now become clear that this indifferent attitude will have to change.

Although few details of the planned system of local government have been ironed out or accepted by the parties involved, it is clear that these bodies are to receive considerable additional powers and that they will play a far more prominent role in the governing and management of the country. In its recommendations on local government, the President's Council at the time stated that vigorous local communities could be a vital source of power for any political system.

In a democratic and multinational society, as pertaining in South Africa, it is of even greater importance as it is at local government level that sensitive matters affecting the daily lives of the various communities can be more satisfactorly dealt with.

Excessive central government control, to which South African have become accustomed over the years, is a poor second for effective local government. Representative local authorities can more effectively deal with the multiplicity of political demands in a culturally divided society than the strongest possible central government. It is a good thing, therefore, that the government has taken the decision in principle to devolve as many central government functions as possible to local government levels, where representatives have the closest contact with the electorate. It can also be ensured in this way that the potential for conflict in a divided South African society does not evolve into a power struggle for control of central government.

Not much is yet known of the details of such a system. Crucial questions are still being investigated, including criteria for viable local authorities, voting rights, and which functions are to be relegated from the central and provincial levels to local government level. Nevertheless, there are already definitive guidelines according to which the system is being planned in consultation with all the relevant bodies. These include the idea that the various communities represented in the system — whites, Coloreds and Indians — will where possible, have autonomous local authorities, and that the existence of reasonably homogeneous communities with a desire for representation will be one of the main criteria for the establishment of a local authority.

If this system is to succeed it is going to demand an entirely new attitude toward local government. Indifference will have to be replaced by enthusiastic participation.

Report Cites High 'Industrial Calm' in 1983

MB170611 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The 1983 annual report of the National Manpower Commission says South Africa experienced a relatively high degree of industrial calm last year compared with 1982. The report published in Pretoria sounds a warning, however, that this should be seen against a background of recession, and high unemployment levels. The report says altogether 336 strikes and work stoppages were reported in 1983, compared with 394 in 1982.

SABC Director Objects to Media Council Findings

MB161805 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The director general of the South African Broadcasting Corporation [SABC], Mr Riaan Eksteen, has made a formal objection to the Media Council about the findings of a committee of the council concerning SABC policy. A special committee of the Media Council dealing with the free flow of information considered points of policy discussed by Mr Eksteen in a speech to the Cape Town Press Club on 24 August.

In his objection, Mr Eksteen said that the committee, which had dealt with his speech on the basis of unfounded deductions and selective and incomplete quotations, had come without justification to the conclusion that the SABC did not cover certain kinds of news. Mr Eksteen said the Media Council was creating an entirely false picture of the SABC's approach, and that in its finding it had given a seriously distorted meaning to his speech.

He said he emphatically rejected the Media Council's findings, and added that nothing he had said or implied could be interpreted as being in conflict with the free flow of information. What was clear was that the SABC, while presenting reality as a whole, did not lend itself to the promotion of ideological deeds linked to revolution, violence, and undemocratic activities.

Mr Eksteen went on to say that the standpoint of the Media Council was not in accordance with the assurances repeatedly given the SABC that nothing in the constitution of the council empowered it to interfere with the editorial policy of any media. The SABC, therefore, disputed the right of the Media Council to express itself on such matters, Mr Eksteen said.

SWAZILAND

Foreign Minister Reiterates Principles at UN

MB160955 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 16 Oct 84 p 5

[By Observer Reporter]

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, has said that the Kingdom of Swaziland stands committed to the principles and objectives of self-determination, independence, and majority rule for all people still under colonial or semi-colonial bondage.

Addressing minister and heads of delegations of nonaligned countries to the 39th session of the United Nations Assembly in New York, Mr Mnisi said that it was the Swaziland Government's stand that Swaziland is unswervingly committed to the noble principles of non-racial democracy, nonalignment, and complete respect for human dignity, justice and peaceful co-existence with all.

"My delegation solicits to record its unreserved commitments to the very high ideals and noble principles that bore the very basis for the existence of the non-aligned movement. We in Swaziland wish to express our warmest tribute to the founding fathers of the nonalignment. Their names continue to be a source of great inspiration and legacy of reality for the world's millions," Mr Mnisi said.

"For that, we salute and respect the wisdom and statemenship of our fallen soldiers of peace and wish our movement undeviating determination towards achieving greater world peace and security," Mr Mnisi added. Mr Mnisi expressed his concern about the division which exists in mankind, which leads to the disunity of nations.

Mr Mnisi then called for the urgent implementation of United Nation's Security Resolution 435 towards the independence of Namibia, saying: "We reiterate our faith and belief that the problem in South Africa can only be solved if all concerned would endeavour to come to the negotiating table irrespective of colour of their skins and ideological affiliations."

ZAMBIA

Visiting Chad Minister Tours Media Complex

MB161922 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The visiting Chadian information minister, Soumaila Mahamat, has said that good news exchanges and efficient information flow is paramount for national development and enhancing international relations. Speaking when he toured the mass media complex in Lusaka this afternoon, the minister stressed that news exhanges played a vital role in the development efforts of every country.

The minister, who was accompanied by his Zambian counterpart, Mr Cosmas Chibanda, commended staff at the mass media complex for the manner in which they handled the machinery, and their competence and diligence in the dissemination of information. He toured the Zambia Broadcasting Service's radio and television studios, ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY offices, and the Zambia Information Services, where he was shown around by the three heads of department, Rev Roger Ngombe, Mr Humphrey Muanga, and Mr Daniel Kapaya, respectively.

On the situation in Chad, Mr Mahamat hoped it will pick up in its rehabilitation program after the civil war. He said that all Chadians were now geared to rebuild their country, following the devastation of the civil war. Mr Mhamat is in the country to deliver a special message from Chadian president, Hissein Habre, to President Kaunda.

ZIMBABWE

ZANU Leaders React to Alliance Call by ZAPU

MB161916 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Two members of the ZANU Politburo say there are plans by ZAPU, the United African National Council [UANC], Sithole's party, and the Conservative Alliance to form an unholy

alliance to contest the forthcoming general election. Comrade Maurice Nyamgumbo, secretary for administration, and Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira, secretary for publicity and information, told a news conference in Harare today that the belief that such a coalition could win is only a dream.

The two leaders were reacting to a resolution at the recent ZAPU congress which called for a politically united front of people described as progressive elements. Comrades Shamuyarira and Nyagumbo said ZANU will not be intimidated by statements and unholy alliances between minority political parties.

On Sunday, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the leader of the UANC, also said minority parties are planning to unite and contest the election as an alliance. The ZAPU congress, which ended in Harare on Sunday, also resolved that adequate measures should be taken to remove all obstacles and all elements whose presence is not conducive to free and fair elections.

Comrade Nyagumbo and Shamuyarira said such statements incite ZAPU members to go on killing ZANU officials, as they had been doing in the Midlands and Matabeleland provinces. They said it is surprising that Dr Nkomo is calling for unity, when he has been the main stumbling block on this course during the past 20 years. They also said the ZAPU leader has been trying to undermine the government of national unity, which was formed after the 1980 general election.

White Conservative Alliance Condemned as 'Antique'
MB170609 Harare THE HERALD in English
11 Oct 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Scrap the Antiques"]

[Text] According to the latest statistics, only about 22,000 whites have registered as voters in preparation for next year's general elections. That is a distressing and disappointing figure. It is disappointing because it seems to mean that most whites have become politically apathetic or have decided it makes no difference which way they vote.

Equally disturbing are reports that Ian Smith's recently rechristened Conservative Alliance claims that 16,000 of the new registrants are either CA members or have been influenced by the old Rhodesian Front to register or reregister. The CA is a relic of antiquity. Its members stand for something that is past and that can never be. It is essential that such antiques should not be allowed to continue claiming that they stand for Zimbabwe's whites.

Our government has espoused the policy of reconciliation. That means Zimbabweans, of whatever racial, political, religious, or economic stripe, are to strive to work together as Zimbabweans without distinction or discrimination. Under such conditions it would be a political disaster and totally in conflict with the policy of reconciliation for our white brothers and sisters to continue clinging to the mythical world that has been created by the CA theorists.

The CA stands for a past that can never be. Opposed to them are the realists, now represented in parliament by the independents. The prime minister has indicated that in the next government he would like independents to be members of his cabinet. It is important for those of our citizens who happen to be white to grasp his hand of friendship. We can no longer afford to be a nation of ethnic groups. We want to be proud Zimbabweans, civic-minded Zimbabweans.

For that to become a reality we must once again urge all Zimbabweans, to register as voters and to vote next year for those candidates who are not living in the past but are working to create a viable multiracial Zimbabwe.